

## 2012 Howard Yackus Memorial Scholarship Award



### *Petra Solimon*

*Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs  
Tallahassee, Florida*

Ms. Petra L. Solimon's welcoming attitude, independence, and spirit are tools she uses to achieve success. Ms. Solimon, a Pueblo of Laguna Native, was fueled by her desire to become a role model for her family and community when she decided to enroll in Tallahassee Community College in pursuit of an Associate's Degree.

With assistance from the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Inc., Ms. Solimon was given the opportunity to become a Youth Program Assistant for the Work Experience program while she proceeded to achieve her Bachelor's Degree from Barry University. This was a very challenging task for Ms. Solimon, who is a single parent; however, her resilience led her to complete an 18-hour class schedule with a GPA of 3.0. Ms. Solimon is now pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration, and plans to return to the Pueblo of Laguna in hopes of creating a resource center for teens.

## 2012 Alice BigPond Memorial Award

### *Almona Kills in Water*

*Sicangu Nation Employment  
and Training Program  
Rosebud, South Dakota*

Ms. Almona Kills In Water has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service during her employment at the Sicangu Oyate Tipi (Rosebud Sioux Tribe Homeless Shelter). Ms. Kills In Water, a veteran and mother of nine, originally began employment as a temporary employee demonstrating determination and professionalism, gaining permanent employment at the shelter.

Apart of her determination is her faithfulness to provide services for veterans, women and children. Her colleagues describe her duties as "a challenge," but through these challenges, she has "accomplished so much." Apart from her career at



the center, Ms. Kills In Water also involves herself in activities which promote cultural preservation. One of her accomplishments is a workshop entitled *Learning and Preserving the Lakota Language* presented at the Lakota/Nakota Language Summit in 2009.

## 2012 Outstanding Participant Awards



### *Frankie Cook*

*The Navajo Nation - Window Rock, Arizona*

Frankie Cook is a proud husband and father of three, who serves as one of Navajo Nation's JTPA classroom trainee graduates. Mr. Cook began his exploration to success in 1994 when he enrolled in Navajo Nation's JTPA Classroom Training program as a member of a low income household - with no running water or electricity.

He began his pursuit of higher education after engaging in a presentation by High Tech Institute of Phoenix, Arizona, where he would soon achieve an

Associate's Degree in Computer Electronics. This was a tremendous transformation and display of determination by Mr. Cook.

Since his CRT graduation, he has held employment for fifteen consecutive years, acting as an inspector, Quality Assurance Analyst, and Repair Technician. Mr. Cook "has prepared himself to be an indispensable employee" which grants him the ability to "become a better... provider" for his family.

### *Michele Honanie*

*Phoenix Indian Center, Inc. - Phoenix, Arizona*

Ms. Michele Honanie serves as an "inspiration" through her tireless efforts to reestablish her life. Ms. Honanie entered the Native Workforce Program at the Phoenix Indian Center as a homeless, transitional treatment participant who was suffering from long-term unemployment. During her enrollment in the Native Workforce Program, Ms. Honanie demonstrated "professional growth" and admirable "initiative." Her goals in

the program were clear; her objective was to complete her treatment program, succeed at acquiring permanent employment, and build a new life for her family.

Ms. Honanie used diligence to meet her very difficult challenges and exceeded all expectations. Ms. Honanie now serves as a Housing Manager at the same transitional institution where she was once a tenant.



### *Oscar Patch, III*

*American Indian Association of Tucson, Inc. - Tucson, Arizona*

Mr. Oscar Patch, III is an example of persistence and effort. Mr. Patch received CDL training, while managing an 80 hour work week schedule and attending college courses at his local community college. Mr. Patch received assistance from Tucson Indian Center to overcome his obstacles of living in transitional housing, possess-

ing a criminal record, holding minimal work experience and limited skills.

Mr. Patch has acquired great success through his determination and self-motivation. He now has established stability in his life by obtaining his CDL license, established a permanent residence, and is in the process of gaining custody of his children.

## *2012 Outstanding Employer Award*



***Sicangu Oyate Tipi is  
here to help***

*Sicangu Oyate Tipi  
(Rosebud Sioux Tribe Homeless Shelter)  
Sicangu Nation Employment and Training Program  
Rosebud, South Dakota*

Sicangu Oyate Tipi (Rosebud Sioux Tribe Homeless Shelter) is the first homeless shelter for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Despite many obstacles the staff has fought hard to make it a successful program in a relatively short period of time. One example of support measures taken

by management is the continuous quest for grants to provide supportive services for veterans.

Sicangu Oyate Tipi has become a place where homeless tribal members can have a new beginning. It has also become a place where

former residence can apply and obtain full time employment.

The administrative staff provides staff development training to enhance the knowledge, skills, and quality of service for multi-barrier clients.