

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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Local Healthcare Nurse Manager Honored with National Indian Health Board's Outstanding Service Award

Fond du Lac (FDL) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, MN, October 6th, 2021 – Christine “Chris” Davis never dreamt she would one day be recognized for the work she loves to do. Having grown up in a family where serving others was considered an honor, she gravitated toward the healthcare profession as a way to nurture her devotion to her FDL community. This week, the diligence and passion with which she performs her job as the Band’s clinic coordinator has earned her national recognition by one of Indian Country’s most prominent organizations.

Tonight, Chris will be presented with the Outstanding Service Award by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) at the Heroes in Health Awards ceremony.

NIHB is a Washington, D.C.-based organization established to represent Tribal governments through collective advocacy, program development, as well as policy formation and analysis. Its mission is to “reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being” for indigenous people.

The Outstanding Service Award was created by NIHB to recognize individuals or organizations whose work has made an impact on American Indian/Alaska Native healthcare.

Chris was nominated for her collaborative leadership during the pandemic and for working tirelessly to ensure mitigation and communications plans were developed so medical clinics under her management could remain operational and safe.

Chris is an outspoken advocate when it comes to improving health services within the greater FDL region. She is passionate about the community getting the best care that they deserve. “Making sure our community receives all the services they are eligible for drives me,” says Chris. “I’m a clinical manager by profession, but I’ll always be a nurse by heart, and if there is a service someone is eligible for, then I want to make sure they get it. I’m very lucky to work with a group of professionals who share that belief and support not just the community, but each other, to get through this pandemic.”



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Because Chris firmly believes that her job can only function as a piece of a larger collaborative endeavor, she says she is happy to accept the award on behalf of the more than eighty staff members with whom she works to provide birth to end-of-life healthcare services.

“I’m one piece of the puzzle, one member of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness team and every single one of the team members deserves this recognition as well,” says Chris. “I’m just bringing up the issues; bringing up concerns and seeing what we’re missing. Although I love writing policy and procedures, it’s been a team effort comprised of medical professionals, nurses, safety officers, community health, quality assurance coming together and working through all the data to make plans to decrease the spread of COVID-19. The Human Services Division has been working tirelessly to keep the community safe and healthy during this pandemic. I’m humbled by our team’s work through this pandemic.”

National recognition for local efforts within Indian Country can have many different types of benefits that might not be immediately observable. In addition to validating the importance of community self-reliance, especially in communities with historical distrust of outside institutions, the added attention awards bring to a profession can inspire people to take on leadership roles they might not otherwise have known existed.

Chris says when she began her career as a front desk receptionist, it was the nurses with whom she worked who encouraged her to go to nursing school. “It’s important for the younger generations to see and know people within their community being in these types of roles and being recognized for success, so they can see that they too can get into these types of healthcare professions and succeed,” says Chris. “We all have to do our part to pay it forward and provide encouragement. My family, colleagues and friends constantly remind me that I’m supposed to be here, so I’m happy to try to do the same for others.”

<Picture attached: Chris Davis FNP, Fond du Lac Medical Clinic Coordinator>

About Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Fond du Lac Band (Nagaajiwanaang; where the water stops) is one of six Chippewa Indian Bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established by the La Pointe Treaty of 1854. Archaeologists, however, maintain that ancestors of the present-day Chippewa (Ojibwe) have resided in the Great Lakes areas since 800 A.D. The Band includes 4,200 members.

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