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LOCAL WOMAN RECEIVES REGIONAL TRIBAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Martina Whelshula, Ph.D. honored with Patricia Whitefoot Education Award

(Spokane Valley, Washington) – November 5, 2012 – The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is pleased to announce that Executive Director Martina Whelshula, Ph.D., received the Patricia Whitefoot Education Award at the 10th Annual Potlatch Fund Gala on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Tulalip Resort in Tulalip, Washington.

Each year since 2005, the Potlatch Fund has presented Leadership Honoring Awards to acknowledge five outstanding citizens in the Northwest Indian Country for their commitment to the five areas of leadership encouraged by the Potlatch Fund: economic development, civic participation, natural resource protection, education, and cultural preservation. Each award is named after a prominent individual that has demonstrated exceptional dedication to one of these areas of leadership. The education award presented to Dr. Whelshula pays tribute to Patricia Whitefoot, the founder of *Gathering of Native America*, a curriculum team used widely in Indian country to address multigenerational trauma and healing.



*Martina Whelshula, Ph.D.
at the 2012 Potlatch Gala*

To view a video of all of the 2012 Leadership Honoring Award winners, including Dr. Whelshula, click here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/potlatchfund09>.

As Director of the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Dr. Whelshula, a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes, oversees a safe environment where youth participate in activities that go beyond addiction education and aim to empower rather than correct adolescents.

Dr. Whelshula holds a Ph.D. in Traditional Knowledge, a Masters in Counseling Psychology, and additional Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Gonzaga University. Upon accepting the directorship of the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Dr. Whelshula completed a Certificate in Chemical Dependency Professional Studies. She has served on a number of boards including the Chair pro-tem for the Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee and the Washington State Native American Think Tank.

The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is currently pursuing the development of a Center for Youth Empowerment to give adolescents the opportunity to practice sober living skills after completing treatment.

About The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations

The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is a residential chemical dependency treatment center for male and female adolescents (ages 13-17) funded by Indian Health Services and the State of Washington. Treatment programs range from 90 to 120 day, and services are focused for, but not limited to, the Native American population.

About the Potlatch Fund Gala

Among Northwest Coastal tribes, a potlatch is a coming together, in ceremony, celebration, and giving. To honor the spirit of the potlatch, the annual Potlatch Gala brings together leaders from Tribal and grassroots organizations, foundations, corporations, and individual communities. The 2012 Gala included celebration of Native art, cultural performances, Philanthropists of the Year Awards, and Leadership Honoring Awards. Proceeds from the 2012 Gala directly support Northwest Indian Country.

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