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SPOKANE VALLEY WOMAN RECEIVES STATEWIDE HEALTH AWARD

Executive Director of The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations named State Health Champion

SPOKANE VALLEY, Washington (April 5, 2013) – The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is pleased to announce that Executive Director Martina Whelshula, Ph.D., has been named a Health Champion for “Empowering a Healthy Community” by the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA).

In celebration of National Public Health Week (April 1 – 5), the WSPHA awarded 2013 Health Champions throughout the state. These awards recognize the outstanding work of individuals, coalitions and business to improve health and safety in Washington. This year, recipients were recognized for their work in areas including “Ensuring a Safe and Healthy Home,” “Providing a Safe Environment for Children at School,” “Creating a Healthy Workplace,” “Protecting You While You’re On the Move,” and “Empowering a Healthy Community.”

As Executive Director of The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, Dr. Whelshula has been given the opportunity to expose youth to an innovative model for recovery. The empowerment program at The Healing Lodge is designed to not only help in the recovery process, but to enhance academic skills by infusing experiential learning.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Whelshula. “The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations will continue to be a health champion for our youth battling the disease of addiction. Our vital work will strengthen families, empower our communities, and ultimately, it will save lives.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Whelshula, the relapse rate at the Healing Lodge is at 23%, a staggering difference from the national relapse rate of 90%. In addition to her work with Healing Lodge, Dr. Whelshula is known statewide for educating parents and children about preventing adolescent chemical dependency. She has also presented on the national level regarding brain development in early childhood learning, and dealing with childhood trauma.

About The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations:

The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations is a 45-bed adolescent (ages 13-17) residential chemical dependency treatment center funded by Indian Health Services and the State of Washington. Services at The Healing Lodge are primarily focused for the Native American population, but services are open to all adolescents. Services are available to both males and females for an approximately 90 to 120 day treatment program designed around the individual youth's needs.

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