



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation announces 2021 Luminary Award recipients

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation will host the 14th annual Raven's Ball this spring. This year the Foundation has transformed the gala into a virtual event we call the Raven's Resilience Celebration. The celebration will take place online and run for three full days, April 20-22. The event raises funds in support of Alaska Native people, Tribes and Tribal health organizations in three priority areas – Healthy Patients, Healthy Kids, and Healthy Communities.

A highlight of the event is the presentation of the Luminary Awards. Each year, individuals and groups are recognized for their dedication and outstanding contributions to the Alaska Tribal Health System and their communities. The Luminary Awards will be presented on the Foundation's website healthyalaskanatives.org on Wednesday, April 21, beginning at noon.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is excited to announce the recipients of the 2021 Raven's Ball Luminary Awards.

Legacy & Leadership Award: Dr. Anne Zink

Dr. Anne Zink, State of Alaska, Chief Medical Officer, will receive the Legacy & Leadership Award which recognizes an outstanding Tribal health leader and/or health care professional, either formal or informal, who has impacted the culture and performance of the Alaska Tribal Health System. Dr. Zink has led the State through one of the largest health emergencies we have seen this century. She is a trusted voice on public health matters, leading with care and empathy. Alaskans across the state continue to look to her as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Distinguished Provider Award: Bobby Heckman

Bobby Heckman, Community Health Aide Practitioner, will receive the Distinguished Provider Award, which recognizes a health care provider whose dedication has made a difference in the lives of those patients they care for and in the Alaska Tribal Health System. Heckman distinguished himself by his selfless actions during a health incident in which he aided a man dying from COVID-19 in Pilot Station.

Outstanding Rural Health Champion Award: North Sound Region Children's Coalition

North Sound Region Children's Coalition will receive the Outstanding Rural Health Champion Award, which recognizes individuals, departments or organizations in rural Alaska who have made an outstanding contribution to rural life, people, and/or programs. Their team was formed in 2018 to provide time and talents to improving the health and well-being of others. They continue to work tirelessly to support care for pediatric patients in the Norton Sound region. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was traveling to communities to do well-child and vaccination visits.

For more information on the 2021 Raven's Ball Luminary Awards, Raven's Resilience sponsorship and event information, or the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, please call (907) 729-5652 or visit healthyalaskanatives.org.

About the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation's purpose is to support Alaska Native people, Tribes, and Tribal Health Organizations in pursuit of Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest in the world. The Foundation does this through board-led, donor-centric fundraising and grant making in support of Alaska Native people with a focus on Healthy Patients, Healthy Kids and Healthy Communities.