



National Indian Head Start Directors Association

NIHSDA's mission is to honor, preserve, and stand strong in supporting American Indian and Alaska Native children, families, and communities.

We Need You to Serve as a NIHSDA Representative!

Do you want to:

- Be involved in policy making and shaping the future of Head Start and Early Head Start?
- Build your leadership capacity while networking with other stakeholders in the early childhood community?
- Stay informed on critical issues and provide guidance on member services like the annual conference?

Volunteer as a NIHSDA Zone Representative today!

NIHSDA Zone Representative's responsibilities include:

- Help guide, direct, and advocate for NIHSDA's mission.
- Attend and be prepared for all Board of Directors and committee meetings, functions and events. The board conducts monthly teleconference meetings as well as three face-to-face meetings annually. (*Approx 8-10 hrs per month*)
- Regularly contact programs in your zone and share updates on any activities and issues.
- Manage NIHSDA's resources and determine its programs and services
- Funds to pay for your travel should be included in your program budget.

Representative positions are for 2 years beginning in September of every other year. To be nominated you must be a paid NIHSDA member and submit your name and a letter from your supervisor supporting your decision to place your name into the running for a NIHSDA Zone Representative or Alternate position. When the Board of Directors elects a Zone representative as an officer, the alternate automatically fills the position of the representative.



"Important work happens in the classroom but NIHSDA helps to build policy to make the magic happen in the classroom. I love being on the board to help create this magic!!" – Tina Routh, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Zone 1 Representative

"Why are you a NIHSDA Board Member?"

"To be a better advocate and leader for my program. To be aware of things programs need to follow to be in compliance. To advocate for the issues my program faces as well as for other programs in our area." – Jo Williams, Alamo Navajo, Zone 5 Representative

"I serve on the board to advocate on behalf of tribal head start programs. A benefit of being a board member is hearing information directly from OHS that impacts our tribal programs." – Ann Cameron, ITC Michigan, Secretary

"I care and know how important NIHSDA has been and is to our Native Children, families and communities." Lee Turney, Leech Lake, Past President

"I believe deeply in advocating for our Native children. NIHSDA is an organization that solely advocates for our people, I am honored to be part of this team." – Deborah Lee, Nisqually, Zone 9 Representative

"My passion is quality early childhood education for all, this is an avenue to advocate for that." – Tami Brungard, Salt River, Zone 6 Representative

"As a Tribal Head Start Director, I am able to have first-hand knowledge of the latest information and research to support our families in our Native Head Start Community." - Crystal Kremensky, Mountain Empire School, Zone 7 Representative

"I was recruited to be on the board as an alternate, then later as a board member. I believe in the mission, and I have always been passionate about decolonizing our educational systems so that they produce resiliency and pride in our children, which in turn will build strong tribal nations in the future." – Ethan Petticrew, Cook Inlet Native, Past Zone 10 Representative