



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: communications@aicaf.org
Phone: 612.314.4848

AICAF Welcomes New Leadership as Organizational Efforts Expand

Minneapolis, MN, February 2020 -- Throughout the last decade, the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) has been persistent in building its network, embracing several new partnerships and opportunities that have allowed us to grow into the organization we are today. As AICAF continues to thrive, we will be expanding the team to enhance and strengthen our work. Meeting the expectations of our Indigenous communities is our highest priority, and we are committed to providing the best support and services to the many Native families who rely on us. We are excited about this next phase and look forward to expanding our dedicated team to help improve cancer outcomes for our people.

Earlier this year, AICAF's Board of Directors and Team of Employees joined forces for a comprehensive strategic planning effort, identifying key focus areas we hope to implement into our programming throughout 2020 and beyond. Together, the Board and staff were successful in establishing a clear, actionable plan that will guide AICAF's future into its next decade of work.

We work in partnership to guarantee our efforts are innovative, community-driven, evidence-based, and grounded in tribal wisdom. AICAF has a strong and credible reputation as an organization that delivers quality resources, training, and technical assistance to Indigenous communities in the areas of cancer prevention, screening, and survivor support. Our teams frequently travel to tribal and urban communities across the nation, providing as much direct support as possible. To make sure we are connecting with rural and harder-to-reach areas, we regularly update our website and social media channels with our latest resources and current events. In 2019, AICAF reached more than 800,000 relatives across its digital platforms. And while we are proud of this number, we won't be satisfied until we're able to connect with *all* of our families in Indian Country.

We are grateful for the leadership provided by our Board of Directors, who have continued to build community connections and enhance our partnerships across the nation. AICAF is now accepting nominations for Indigenous leaders to serve on its Board of Directors for up to three two-year terms. Nominees should have a passion for Native health and should be committed to reducing cancer burdens in our communities. For more information on how to nominate a qualified leader, please contact info@aicaf.org or call **612.314.4848**.

AICAF's current Team of Employees has also been developing to keep up with organizational expansion. We are excited to announce the appointment of Melissa Buffalo, MS (Meskwaki) to AICAF Deputy Director. Ms. Buffalo's experience and expertise will significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts at AICAF. Her commitment to eliminate the cancer burdens in our communities is both personal and professional. The Deputy Director will work closely with Chief Executive Officer Kris Rhodes (Bad River & Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) to support the AICAF Leadership Team.

There is currently an opening to join the AICAF Leadership Team as a Program Manager. Please share the announcement with someone in your network who is highly motivated, dedicated to the AICAF mission, and is interested in working with a dynamic team. Apply now at americanindiancancer.org/employment/.

###