



ALBUQUERQUE AREA INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

Jicarilla Apache Nation • Mescalero Apache Tribe • Ramah Band of Navajos
Southern Ute Indian Tribe • Tóhajiilee Band of Navajo • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 2, 2024

The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. Mourns the Passing of Founding Director of the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, Dr. Francine C. Gachupin

Albuquerque, NM — It is with profound sadness that the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. announces the passing of the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC) director, Dr. Francine C. Gachupin. Dr. Gachupin, a renowned leader in tribal health and epidemiology, passed away on September 23, 2024 leaving a legacy of dedicated service to Native American communities across the Southwest, and beyond.

Dr. Gachupin, a member of the Pueblo of Jemez, was instrumental in the establishment and growth of AASTEC, where she worked tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of tribal populations through culturally relevant research, data collection, and public health initiatives. Her commitment to indigenous health spanned over several decades, during which she became a powerful advocate for health equity and the advancement of Native health systems.

Under her leadership, AASTEC played a vital role in addressing health disparities in Native communities. Dr. Gachupin's passion for data-driven solutions empowered tribes to take ownership of their health data and develop sustainable health programs that reflected the needs and values of their communities.

In addition to her work at AASTEC, Dr. Gachupin was a respected researcher, educator, and mentor. She collaborated extensively with national and international health organizations, sharing her expertise to advocate for better health outcomes for indigenous peoples worldwide.

Dr. Gachupin's contributions to Native health have left an indelible mark on tribal epidemiology and public health. Her commitment to collaboration, culturally competent and ethical research, and tribal sovereignty continued to the very end guiding the future of all those who work alongside her and the many organizations she helped along the way.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Francine's family, friends, and the communities she served so passionately during this difficult time.

About AASTEC:

The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc. is the parent organization of the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC). AASTEC was established in 2006 to provide epidemiological services to the 27 American Indian Tribes in the Albuquerque Area. AASTEC works in partnership with tribes and local agencies to assess health disparities, develop public health infrastructure, and implement data-driven health initiatives.

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