

Richard Hatch Junior OD Award

Submission Deadline: February 7, 2020

BACKGROUND

CAPT Richard A. Hatch is a compassionate and caring mentor with a thorough knowledge of the Indian Health Service Optometry Program. He is nationally identified with the American Indian and Alaska Native community. He is in his 26th year of service as an IHS optometrist and has worked personally with scores of student interns and residents. He orchestrated the centralization of IHS optometry student intern assignments with all schools and colleges of optometry. He initiated and coordinated the creation of IHS optometry residency programs. These programs have proven to be the backbone IHS optometrist recruitment success. In addition to always maintaining his clinical practice, for several years he served concurrently as Gallup Service Unit Chief of Optometry, Navajo Area Chief Consultant for Optometry and as IHS Chief Clinical Consultant for Optometry. In these roles he recruited scores of optometrists to the Indian Health Service and nurtured their career promotion and progression. He has a long history of successfully supporting and mentoring Junior IHS optometrists, including those in a residency program he initiated in 2011 at Zuni Hospital.

PURPOSE

The Richard Hatch Junior OD of the Year Award is to recognize an outstanding IHS optometrist practicing as a PHS Commissioned Officer, Direct Tribal Hire or Civil Servant, who has demonstrated exemplary work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the IHS early in their career. This award may be presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG). Presentation will be at the IHS Biennial meeting and/or the COA conference.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible candidates for the award include Commissioned Corps, PHS tribal direct hire, or PHS civil service optometrists. Eligible candidate must have less than 10 years' experience as an optometrist at the date of the nomination deadline. OPAG members are eligible but if nominated may not take part in the voting process.

CRITERIA

Each nominee must have demonstrated an outstanding contribution toward the mission of the PHS commensurate with the period of employment. The nominee must have been directly involved as a key player in the exemplary work, or must have had direct control over it. This contribution shall include at least one of the following:

1. A specific notable accomplishment that impacts the public or the field of public health and/or optometry.
2. High quality and initiative in leadership or future promise of leadership.
3. The application of unique skill or creative imagination to the approach or solution of a problem(s).
4. Technical and/or professional contributions that is significant to an office, center, bureau, agency, state, region, or nation.
5. Exhibition of great courage in hazardous work or in an emergency.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

1. Any PHS employee may nominate an eligible candidate.
2. A nomination package, which consists of a cover letter, nomination page, and curriculum vitae, must be submitted by mail, fax, or email to the OPAG Chair by the designated deadline.
3. The OPAG Awards Subcommittee will review and rank the nominations.
4. The OPAG Chair shall select the nominee ranked highest by the OPAG awards subcommittee or return, with comments, all the nominations to the OPAG Awards subcommittee for reconsideration.

NOMINATION PACKAGE

A complete submission consists of the following sections: the cover page, the nomination page, and the curriculum vitae.

A. Cover Page (see attached – please provide citations).

B. Copy of candidate's curriculum vitae that include a brief description of their current assignment.

C. Nomination Page: A description of service or achievement, which merits special honor upon which the nomination is based. Do not exceed two single spaced typed pages:

- The first paragraph should state the reason for the nomination and mention the areas of practice.
- The body of the submission must describe (i) the specific role the nominee played in each accomplishment noted (ii) the degree of the impact of the accomplishments of the nominee, and (iii) the degree to which the nominee exceeded the normal work performance requirements.
- The last paragraph should encompass key elements and incorporate the submission (also used as the citation).

AWARD SCHEDULE

1. Solicitation of nominations by the OPAG: late fall
2. Submission of nominations: announced deadline
3. OPAG awards subcommittee review and recommend nominations to the OPAG Chair
4. Award presentation: IHS Biennial Meeting and/or COA conference

COVER SHEET

Richard Hatch Junior OD of the Year Award

Candidate Name:

Position Title:

Work address:

Work telephone:

Work email:

Proposed citation:

Recommended by:

Submit to:

Hanna Fylpaa, OD
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