

Richard Hatch Junior OD of the Year Award

Candidate Name: LT Matt Geiger O.D.

Position Title: Chief of Optometry, Clinton Service Unit

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Proposed citation: I recommend Dr. Geiger for the Richard Hatch Junior OD of the Year Award for his role in expanding access and quality of care at the Clinton Indian Health Service Center as well as his forward thinking approach and dedicated involvement within the communities he serves.

Recommended by: LCDR Laura Alexander

I would like to nominate LT Matthew Geiger for the Richard Hatch Junior O.D. Award. LT Geiger has been stationed in Clinton IHS for over 2 years and a member of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps for just over a year.

LT Geiger has made a significant impact since joining IHS. When he arrived at Clinton IHS, the wait time for general eye exams was around 3 years. In just two short years, the wait time is now two months which is a dramatic increase in access to care.

He is also dedicated in advancing the quality of care at the clinic. Since his arrival, he has played a large part in upgrading technology within his clinic. He had new OPTOS retinal cameras implemented at all three facilities in service unit. Additionally, he has upgraded to the latest OCT that includes angiography as well as better tools for glaucoma management. Lastly, he has acquired a new tonometer as well as Welch Allen spot screener for pediatric patients have been acquired. Another quality initiative that LT Geiger undertook, was becoming a student externship site for the University of Salus, Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

LT Geiger is actively involved with policy work within OPAG. He current holds the position of OPAG Policy Chair and also works with the Office of General Council developing an IHS area policy in regards to "providers with service animals in the clinic."

LT Geiger promotes public health with the local community. He attends local tribal outreaches and performs school vision screenings for several tribal head start programs. He has been an invited speaker at these engagements regarding the potential effects of diabetes in the eyes. LT Geiger has also attended the last two Remote Area Medical (RAM) events held in Oklahoma. This organization provides rural, underserved public with a comprehensive eye exam and glasses as well as other various medical services. Last year the event in Durant, OK served 566 patients in 2 days and provided and estimated value of \$297,734 in total services.

We these contributions, I am happy to nominate LT Geiger for the Richard Hatch Junior O.D. Award

Very Respectfully,

LCDR Laura Alexander