Heidi Parker Honored for Promoting Childhood Immunization
Immunize Nevada Executive Director Receives National Award

Carson City – Heidi Parker, MA, Executive Director of Immunize Nevada, was named a CDC Childhood Immunization Champion in recognition of her outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunizations. Champion awards acknowledge exemplary individuals who go above and beyond to promote or foster immunizations among children 0-2 years old in their communities. Only one winner is selected in each state or territory.

Each year, in connection with National Infant Immunization Week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation honor health professionals and community leaders from around the country with CDC Childhood Immunization Champion awards. CDC Childhood Immunization Champions are selected from among health care professionals, coalition members, community advocates, and other immunization leaders. State and Territorial Immunization Programs coordinate the nomination process and notify CDC of their recommendations.

“Heimmunization is a top priority for me, and I am honored to receive this award,” said Heidi Parker. “We have made great strides as a community and as a state in improving our immunization rates, but there is still much work to be done. I look forward to working with our partners throughout Nevada to continue to improve immunization rates for our children.”

Parker’s achievements are many: insuring that every child has access to immunization services regardless of their ability to pay; creating vaccination clinics in schools that have provided over 20,000 flu and Tdap vaccines to students and adults; providing education to medical assistants throughout Nevada; partnering with Give Kids A Boost Health & Safety Fair; organizing no-cost immunization clinics throughout Nevada during National Infant Immunization Week; creating the “NV’r Miss a Shot” campaign to remind parents about timely infant and toddler immunizing; and promoting Text 4 Baby.

“Heimmunization plays a key role in protecting the health of America’s children,” said Dr. Melinda Wharton, Acting Director of CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. “Ensuring that all children are immunized requires a cadre of dedicated health professionals and community leaders nationwide. The Champion awards give us the opportunity to salute these individuals for their service to our children.”

For more information about other CDC Childhood Immunization Champion award winners, please visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/champions.

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