

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775-684-4014
Release Date: June 26, 2013
Page 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

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.

“Immunization 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.”

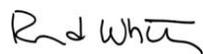
Parker’s achievements are many: insuring that every child has access to immunization services regardless of their ability to pay; creating vaccination clinics in schools that have provided over 20,000 flu and Tdap vaccines to students and adults; providing education to medical assistants throughout Nevada; 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.

“Immunization 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.

###




Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
NEVADA STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER