



Biography: **Kathleen Annette, M.D.**



A lifelong resident of rural Minnesota, Dr. Kathleen Annette is a recognized leader at local, regional and national levels. She is president and CEO of Blandin Foundation.

Kathy grew up on the Red Lake Indian Reservation and is enrolled with White Earth Band of Ojibwe. She is a graduate of University of Minnesota, where she received both her medical and undergraduate degrees. She is the first woman in the Minnesota Ojibwe Nation to become a physician.

As acting deputy director of field operations of Indian Health Service, based in Bemidji, Minn., Kathy had responsibility for supervision and leadership of Area Directors across the United States, including 48 hospitals, 238 health clinics serving 1.9 million American Indian patients, and 15,000 federal employees. For her professional leadership, she received two Presidential Meritorious Awards given to no more than three percent of senior executives in federal service and, in 2010, a Presidential Distinguished Service Award which is presented to no more than one percent of senior federal senior executives throughout the government. She retired from federal service after 26 distinguished years and joined Blandin Foundation as its CEO on Sept. 1, 2011.

Kathy's many honors and awards include the national American Indian Physician of the Year award, Quality of Place Award issued by Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and the Jake White Crow National Award, presented by the National Indian Health Board—the only federal employee to be so recognized. She was inducted into the Northwest Minnesota Women's Hall of Fame at Bemidji State University in 2006 and into the Academy of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 2005 (the first woman so honored).

One of the major events of her career was serving as the on-site coordinator and leader in the response to the Red Lake High School shootings in 2005. A representative of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Kathy assisted the community in the aftermath of this tragedy both immediately and long-term. For her service, the Red Lake Ojibwe Nation bestowed honorary membership—an honor received by only three individuals.

Kathy is a long-time partner of the Blandin Foundation, having served as a board member for 12 years (1991-2003) and chaired and participated in the Foundation's American Indian Advisory Committee (2004-2011). She is an alumnus of the first Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program cohort in 2001.