



For Immediate Release

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American Cancer Society Awards \$627,000 grant to Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

(Anchorage, AK) **The First Cancer Research Grant Awarded in 42 Years from the American Cancer Society in Alaska will go to support the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Dr. Melany Cueva's work, entitled "Developing Arts-Based Cancer Education with Alaska Native People " .**

Alaska Native cancer rates are the highest of any US ethnic group -- 34% higher than US Whites -- and survival rates are 17% lower than for US Whites. The American Cancer Society has awarded a grant of over \$600,000 to Dr. Melany Cueva, EdD, of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to change those numbers.

"The American Cancer Society is so pleased to award Dr. Cueva's work and the recognition it brings to the ANTHC," said Larry Andrus, Regional Vice President of the American Cancer Society. "Re-evaluating cancer education at the cultural level is on the cutting edge of the fight against cancer. This gives us the opportunity to address disparities in our rural and urban Alaska Native populations."

"Cancer is the top killer of Alaska Natives and we're taking an innovative approach to change that," said Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Chairman and President Lincoln Bean. The Consortium is developing arts-based cancer prevention educational tools for Alaska Natives care providers and the people in their communities.

"This will help people be less fearful, and understand more about cancer, so they get screenings, for instance, that can uncover cancer when it's easier to treat," said ANTHC CEO Don Kashevaroff.



Press release cont.

"We'll look at storytelling, dance, music, and the visual arts to integrate the wisdom of indigenous cultures and medical information," said project leader Melany Cueva, a registered nurse with a doctorate in education.

Please save the date for the official press conference which will take place:

Date: Thursday, Nov. 6th

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: ANTHC- Alaska Native Medical Center

Gathering place lobby

4315 Diplomacy Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508

Co- Hosted By: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium & American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives from cancer, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. For 24-hour cancer information, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is an Alaska based nonprofit organization with a Mission to provide the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System. If you would like to schedule an interview with please contact: Lori Eussen (907) 729- 4707 or visit www.anthc.org.

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