

Dr. Patricia Nez Henderson

Dr. Patricia Nez Henderson, a member of the Dine' (Navajo) tribe, is the Vice President for the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health, an American Indian nonprofit health organization located in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Nez Henderson received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Arizona and earned a Master of Public Health degree from Yale University. In 2000 Dr. Nez Henderson became the first American Indian woman to graduate from the Yale University School of Medicine and was the first person to receive the Patricia Nez Award, an annual award given to recognize a Yale School of Medicine graduate committed to improving the health of American Indians.

For the past eight years Dr. Nez Henderson has collaborated with tribal communities all over the country in implementing comprehensive tobacco control and prevention programs. Projects have included development of culturally tailored cessation programs, development of web-based prevention programs for Native youth, and mobilizing the Navajo Nation towards a commercial tobacco-free legislation. Dr. Nez Henderson is a panel member of the PHS Guideline Tobacco Dependence and Treatment 2008. She and her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Henderson, have two beautiful children, Zahlanii (7 years old) and Mato (5 year old).