**Michelle Singer (Navajo)**

**Education:**

(1995) Bachelor of Science in General Science with emphasis in Pre-Medicine and Minor in Ethnic Studies, University of Oregon

(1994) Special Education, Guidance and Counseling Certification Training, Chemawa Indian School

**Experience and Interests:**

Michelle Singer, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, currently serves as Diversity Community Outreach Specialist for the Center for Diversity & Inclusion at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). In her role, Michelle will facilitate, establish and strengthen relationships with Native American and other diverse communities. With more than 20 years of experience in community outreach to tribal communities and Indian country, Michelle will foster partnerships with federal, state and tribal government, health, human services, and educational organizations.

In her previous role also at OHSU, she served as the Communications Coordinator for the One Sky Center, an American Indian/Alaska Native national resource center for health, education & research in the area of substance abuse and mental health services dedicated to the identification and dissemination of best practices of cultural based prevention, intervention and treatment initiatives. She assisted the Director and professional staff with communications, public relations, and intergovernmental support. Michelle also assists the Tribal Leadership Forum, the non-profit organization of the Institute for Tribal Government, also located at OHSU, in the development of materials for tribal governance training and participates as an instructor with intergovernmental entities.

Prior to coming to OHSU, she nearly a decade in the United State Senate as a policy advisor to former Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chairman Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). She is one of the few American Indian professionals who have worked on Capitol Hill for both political parties.

Michelle has professional and personal ties to principals and members of their staff both who work in the Legislative and the Executive Branches. Her former Capitol Hill colleagues, former bosses, coupled with ties to previous political activities on local, state, regional and national scales has proven to be helpful and powerful in relationship building that stretches across many spectrums: from Capitol Hill, to Federal Agencies, to the White House. This reach would include extensive contacts both in the States of Oregon, Washington, to Washington, D.C., including the Departments of Health & Human Services, Interior, and Agriculture to name a few.

Michelle's professional and personal background is strongly rooted in Indian education, Indian health, and Indian affairs. She has worked with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium in Alexandria, Virginia; Northwest Indian College on the Lummi Indian Reservation in Bellingham, Washington; Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Pablo, Montana. Michelle also worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Chemawa Indian School, an off-reservation Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated boarding school, in Salem, Oregon.

Michelle is a graduate of Sprague High School and the University of Oregon with aspirations to continue to pursue higher education. She was born in Oregon, and raised in both the Pacific Northwest and the Navajo Nation in the Southwestern United States. Her mother is from Manuelito, New Mexico and her father is from Kayenta, Arizona. Both parents are citizens of the Navajo Nation. She is of the “Bitter water” clan, born for the “One Walks Around” clan. Michelle is one of four children, with two nephews and two nieces.

**Recent Publications:**

R. Dale Walker, M.D.; Douglas A. Bigelow, Ph.D; Jessica Hope LePak, M.S.W. & Singer, Michelle J. Singer, B.S. *Demonstrating the Process of Community Innovation: The Indian Country Methamphetamine Initiative*. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, Volume 43, Number 4, October – December 2011.

Singer, Michelle. *Health Care Disparities and the Native American Community*. Oregon Civil Rights Newsletter for the Civil Rights Section of the Oregon State Bar December 2009

Singer, Michelle. *Cultural Resiliency Through Education and Technology*. Winds of Change Quarterly for the American Indian Science & Engineering Society Winter Edition 2005