Governor & Cheri Daniels School Health Award

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana (CKF-IN) and the Indiana School Heath Network (ISHN) launched the Governor & Cheri Daniels School Health Award at the 2012 School Health Conference. The award was created to recognize Governor Mitch Daniels and his wife, Cheri, for their leadership and contributions to the health of Hoosier adults and children through their work building and promoting INShape Indiana, creating the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and supporting ongoing efforts promoting health in schools. Governor Daniels was the first award winner.

What is the Governor & Cheri Daniels School Health Award?

The Governor & Cheri Daniels School Health Award is presented each year during the ISHN School Health Conference. The award is given to an individual who has demonstrated leadership and dedication to promoting school health and wellness activities in Indiana schools.

Who is eligible to be nominated?

Any individual who is a strong advocate for student health or a healthy school environment; has made outstanding contributions to improving statewide processes and policies that benefit Indiana schools; or promotes school wellness policies, school health behaviors and activities in Indiana is eligible to be nominated for the Governor and Cheri Daniels School Health Award. Examples of such activities or accomplishments include, but are not limited to, demonstrated promotion of school policy or culture change resulting in increased physical activity or improved health or nutrition; demonstrated improvement in healthy lifestyles for students and school staff; or demonstrated promotion of school health through the development of school-based or school-linked health services. Eligible individuals are recognized as leaders and advocates for schools and school health in Indiana and are Indiana residents over 18 years of age. CKF-IN and lead agency staff are not eligible to be nominated.

Who can nominate an individual?

Any Indiana resident, Indiana agency or organization that is familiar with the nominee and can give specific information and examples as to why the nominated individual should receive the award can submit a nomination. For full disclosure, the nominating individual or organization must disclose any personal or professional relationship with the nominee. Only one nominee per individual or organization can be submitted.

What does the award include?

The award winner will be recognized for their outstanding contributions at the Indiana School Health Network School Health Conference. The winner will receive a plaque and a monetary award of $1,000 donated to the not-for-profit organization or charity of his or her choice.

How are nominations evaluated?

Select members of the CKF-IN Schools & Early Childhood Committee will review and select the winner. Individuals with a conflict of interest will not participate in the reviews. The award winner will be notified before the conference, as the award will be presented at the annual ISHN School Health Conference.

About the Indiana School Health Network

The Indiana School Health Network (ISHN) was the vision of many school health partners, advocates and agencies who came together at the 2008 School Health Initiatives Midwestern Regional Conference hosted by Covering Kids & Families of Indiana (CKF-IN). These school health professionals saw a need for a statewide organization to help convene networking opportunities for school health professionals and advocates and to provide resources to help promote school health initiatives across the state. Much discussion and planning followed the conference, culminating in the formation of the Indiana School Health Network. With the support of our school health colleagues, CKF-IN is proud to serve as the lead agency for the ISHN.

Our Vision

The Indiana School Health Network believes that every student in Indiana can be healthy and academically successful, achieve his/her potential and have enhanced life-long well-being.

Our Mission

As the statewide coalition and clearinghouse for school health activities, ISHN engages and convenes key stakeholders to:

- Promote, enhance and advocate for comprehensive and coordinated school health programs and services;
- Promote, enhance and advocate for school-based and school-linked health care, including dental and behavioral health, health education and health promotion services;
- Educate and engage families, health care agencies, faith-based organizations, businesses and not-for-profit organizations about the health needs of children and youth;
- Provide a forum for professional and agency support, resource and professional development and networking opportunities for members, schools and school personnel; and
- Enhance and strengthen inclusive community and school health partnerships.

Our Four Priority Areas

- ***Best Practices*** to be identified and shared to increase support for school health among all partners;
- ***Communication and Awareness*** to increase knowledge about school health among all partners;
- ***Funding Support for School Health*** to sustain and expand school health programs;
- ***Policy and Advocacy*** to support school health through legislation and community education.

Please join us in our efforts to help promote school health initiatives across Indiana. Visit our website at *www.inschoolhealth.org* for more information.