



## MEDIA ALERT

August 21, 2019

### For more information, contact:

Anne Egan-Waukau  
CELL: (262) 370-0142

### **Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center Executive Director to Host Native College Student Suicide Forum**

“There is a high rate of suicide among our college-age Native youth, and communities must work together to help them persevere in life,” said Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center (GLIIHC) Executive Director Lyle Ignace, M.D. To get the discussion started, Ignace will host a Suicide Listening Forum at 8:30 a.m. September 12 (Thursday) at the Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1721 W Canal St, Milwaukee.

“Our Native student suicide rates are disproportionately high compared to their college peers,” said Ignace, who is from the Coeur d’Alene and the Menominee tribes. “It’s a difficult discussion to have, but we must tackle Native student suicide together. We need to work with national and local subject matter experts, tribal leaders, Native organizations, secondary education institutions’ suicide prevention and education personnel, along with community members to help our youth.”

They Keynote speaker will be Dr. Roger Walker (Cherokee). Dr. Walker is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the Oregon Health & Science University. He is Director of the One Sky Center, [www.oneskycenter.org](http://www.oneskycenter.org), a National Resource Center for American Indian Health and Education. Please see attached bio.

**WHO:** Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center

**WHAT:** Suicide Listening Session Forum: Join a Discussion about Suicide Risk in Native College Students

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Thursday, September 12, 2019

**WHERE:** Potawatomi Hotel & Casino Legacy Ballroom

GLIIHC’s award-winning health care services are based on our tradition that in order to heal, every part of a patient must be addressed. This includes the mind, body, spirit, and emotions and involves the whole family, including the community, Ignace said.

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