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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**Nurse Working with Native Americans Receives 1<sup>st</sup> ANA Immunity Award**  
*Helps Increase Immunization for Generations through Culturally Sensitive Approach*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – Christie London, FNP, PHN, nurse manager and immunization coordinator for a Native American health service, has been named the first recipient of the American Nurses Association (ANA) Immunity Award, which honors nurses who have become champions of immunizations by demonstrating commitment and leadership in increasing immunization rates.

Under London's leadership, immunization administration at the Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. in Sacramento, CA, grew more than four-fold, from about 300 to 1,400 patients, from 2007 to 2008, and the number of vaccines given has nearly doubled from 1,400 to 2,600 over the last two years. Much of that increase is attributed to London's efforts to educate the Native American community on the benefits of immunization for the individual, family and community in a manner that reflects the population's cultural beliefs. She has influenced multiple generations within a family to become immunized. London also works with local tribes to conduct immunization clinics at tribal events, schools, and health fairs.

The Immunity Award is a component of ANA's Bringing Immunity to Every Community project. The two-year initiative, a cooperative agreement between ANA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), focuses on maximizing nurses' role in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. The project seeks to increase nurses' knowledge and competency in immunization, encourage nurses to be vaccinated, and position nurses as leading advocates for immunization among peers, patients, and the public.

**MORE...**

## First ANA Immunity Award Granted/ Page 2...

Registered nurses can apply for the ANA Immunity Award, either through self-nomination or nomination by a peer, online through Bringing Immunity to Every Community's website, <http://www.ANAimmunize.org>, a one-stop shop for resources nurses need to be competent, educated advocates for immunizations. An Immunity Award recipient will be selected monthly.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*