

IHS partners with UNM for Northern Navajo Family Program

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The Indian Health Service and The University of New Mexico School of Medicine have partnered to create a family medicine residency program at the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock. The announcement was made on July 22.

“I want to extend my most sincere congratulations to the Indian Health Service for establishing this unique and crucially important training program,” Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, UNM’s Chancellor for Health Sciences said. “It reflects the commitment and creativity of our faculty working side-by-side with IHS and the Navajo government to address their medical workforce needs.”

“The Indian Health Service is excited to work with the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to establish a family residency program to serve our American Indian and Alaska Native community,” Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee, the Indian Health Service director and an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, said.

“There is a growing need for physicians in rural areas. We hope this partnership will attract more physicians who want to serve in these areas while allowing residents to work in a diverse setting that facilitates learning in a small group environment,” Weahkee added.

UNM was awarded the five-year \$2.4 million Health Resources and Services Administration Residency Training in Primary Care Program planning grant to create the residency program.