

## **Employee of the Year Nominee Profile**

### **Christa Williamson – Professional Writer/ Editor Tribal Option Department Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority**

At Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority, we believe the strongest leaders are often those who work behind the scenes, consistently, humbly, and with unwavering purpose. Christa Williamson is one of those rare individuals who not only gets the job done but elevates the entire organization in the process. Through her positivity, tireless dedication, and ability to bring out the best in those around her, Christa has become a driving force for excellence at both the Tribal Option and CIHA as a whole. She is a shining example of what Employee of the Year truly means.

#### **Integrity**

Christa's integrity isn't something she talks about, it's something she lives. She is a positive role model across her department, consistently going above and beyond to make her colleagues and coworkers feel valued and supported. Whether she's greeting everyone with a warm smile each morning or taking the time to check in with team members, Christa brings light and care to the workplace.

She embodies CIHA's Guiding Principles in her everyday actions, showing ownership and pride in every project, big or small. Whether she's reviewing policies or supporting interdepartmental collaborations, her professionalism, attention to detail, and care for others set the tone for everyone she works with.

#### **Responsiveness**

In a world that moves fast, Christa never lets quality fall behind. She's a master of organization, consistently ensuring that the Tribal Option and CIHA meet important deadlines, comply with state contracts, and maintain the highest possible standards. Her work drafting, reviewing, and revising policies is meticulous and mission-driven, helping the organization avoid costly penalties and stay aligned with DHHS contractual expectations.

When someone needs help — whether it's a department overwhelmed with reporting or a colleague up against a deadline — Christa steps in without hesitation. Her commitment to urgency without sacrificing thoroughness makes her one of CIHA's most dependable and valued contributors.

#### **Success**

Christa's impact goes far beyond her job description. She played a vital role in helping CIHA earn a Level 3 Baldrige Award, and her continued work is already pushing the organization toward a Level 4 designation. She seamlessly balances her Tribal Option responsibilities with cross-departmental contributions that advance CIHA's long-term strategic goals.

She is a regular face at community events, Tribal Option initiatives, parades, and holiday giveaways. Her dedication is felt across the hospital and the community, making her not only an essential team member but a powerful ambassador for CIHA's mission.

#### **Teamwork**

Teamwork is second nature to Christa. Whether it's jumping in to shoulder extra work so others don't feel overwhelmed, or collaborating with colleagues across multiple departments during the Baldrige process, she consistently puts the success of the team above herself.

Her peers recognized her commitment and nominated her to serve on the Employee Association, a role she accepted with the same energy and pride she brings to every task. From planning events to winning the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, Christa leads with positivity and inclusiveness. Her contributions help shape a culture where people feel connected, appreciated, and proud to be part of the CIHA family.

### **Innovation**

Christa is always thinking ahead. She approaches each challenge with resourcefulness and vision, never afraid to question how something can be done better. Whether she's refining Tribal Option policies or collaborating with CIHA leadership on organization-wide goals, she brings fresh ideas that spark progress and long-term impact.

Her innovation isn't loud or flashy, it's thoughtful, strategic, and grounded in improving systems for both staff and patients. She creates pathways for continued growth.

### **A Quiet Force with a Big Impact**

Christa Williamson may not always be front and center, but the ripple effects of her work are felt throughout CIHA every day. She uplifts those around her, strengthens the foundation of the organization, and brings joy and excellence to everything she touches.

We are proud to recognize Christa Williamson as a nominee for Employee of the Year — a title that reflects her heart, her drive, and her tremendous contribution to the success of Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority.