

Abigail Echo-Hawk, MA, Executive Vice President, Seattle Indian Health Board

As the executive vice president of the Seattle Indian Health Board — and director of the Urban Indian Health Institute — Abigail Echo-Hawk is one of the most influential figures in public health research today. She was recently named to the 2024 TIME100 Next list, which recognizes the 100 most influential up-and-coming leaders in the country.

Her work to integrate Indigenous values within public health systems is fundamentally reshaping how governments, institutions, and medical professionals address the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Echo-Hawk has served on numerous high-profile scientific research committees, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, where she played a key role in developing an equitable framework for distributing the Covid-19 vaccine. Her expertise is sought after by national and international bodies alike, solidifying her position as an unparalleled force in the field.

She has been praised by local and national leaders, including Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, and Vice President Kamala Harris, for her research and advocacy around the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls crisis. She works directly with families and victims of violence to navigate systems that often overlook or fail to address their unique needs.

Echo-Hawk's passion is in nurturing the next generation of leaders, both at home raising two boys and within the community. She oversees all youth programs at the Seattle Indian Health Board, which aim to build leadership skills through cultural teachings and on-the-job training.

Echo-Hawk continues to champion her community, drawing strength from it while using her platform to inspire and drive meaningful change.