

Esther Lucero (Diné), MPP

Chief Executive Officer
Seattle Indian Health Board

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BIO

Esther Lucero is Diné and Latina and a third generation urban Indian from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Esther received a Master of Public Policy and a BA in Native American studies from Mills College.

While living in California, Esther served as the Director of Policy and Programs at the *Native American Heath Center* where she gained a strong understanding of the importance of cultural- and evidence-based practices while working to prevent substance abuse. Soon after, she became the Director of Programs and Strategic Development for the *California Consortium for Urban Indian Health* and led Behavioral Health Advocacy for 10 Urban Indian Health programs throughout California. In addition to her work in urban Indian organizations, Esther has taught classes at San Francisco State University in American Indian Studies and San Francisco Art Institute in Urban Studies. She served on the board of directors for the Intertribal Friendship House and the Alliance for Girls.

In 2015, Esther was recruited by Seattle Indian Health Board for the position of CEO. The organization's dedication to its community and commitment to workforce development and epidemiology along with its national presence in the policy forum attracted Esther to lead the organization into a new era. In her first three years at the organization, she increased the operating budget by \$11 million and completed a reorganization. She has built a team-based environment and established an Executive team to lead the charge toward the implementation of the first of its kind, Indigenous Knowledge Informed System of Care. In recent years, the organization has increased its prominence locally and nationally.

Esther currently serves on HealthierHere's governing board and serves on the Governor's Behavioral Taskforce. She is a delegate to the American Indian Health Commission and serves on the Native Communities Committee under the leadership of City Councilmember Debora Juarez. Esther was recently appointed to the City of Seattle's LGBTQ Commission and Community Police Commission by Mayor Jenny Durkan. Esther's passion and advocacy for Native health, transformative approaches to indigenous research and evaluation, and Federal Indian Law and policy has made her a leader in health in Seattle and nationally.