

2022 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: January

LCDR Michelle Livingston is Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist at Chemawa Indian Health Center/Western Oregon Service Unit in Salem Oregon. Her exceptional leadership goes further than the 16 employees she supervises, but rather is evident in her clinical and administrative accomplishments. The past year, LCDR Livingston demonstrated tireless commitment and service in meeting the objectives and mission of the IHS.

Under her guidance, the clinic she implemented has maintained over 20 months of outdoor COVID screening operations. LCDR Livingston wrote the service unit's Pandemic Response plan and screening protocols, which no doubt assisted in zero clinic high-risk exposures. Over 7200 COVID vaccinations have been administered with 76.3% of our user population being vaccinated (44% was the IHS goal by the end of April). She ensured that 60% of our staff have been fitted for N95 respirators versus 11% pre-pandemic. She then procured 4 CAPRs for staff unable to be fitted into N95s. Throughout the pandemic, she maintained adequate par levels of all necessary PPE, ensuring that all staff had access to the highest level of CDC recommended PPE for all patient care performed.

During the pandemic, LCDR Livingston was dedicated to ensuring that the nursing team would be ready for the return of the Chemawa Indian School Boarding students in October 2021. Planning and prepping for the medical screenings as well as COVID testing was crucial for the safe return of the students.

Aside from the immense amount of oversight and work LCDR Livingston had at WOSU, she deployed to other service units in the area to assist in the COVID-19 response. Most recently, she completed a 30-day deployment to Wyoming. There was never a time in the past year that the need was any greater for service. Each and every time she stepped up and volunteered to ensure that the health and safety of our employees and patients would never be in jeopardy. She is a testament to what it is to be a nurse. LCDR Livingston is a superb nurse and leader. Our service unit is better for it.