



Barbara Roy Crowell, Robert Crowell and Cecelia Fred traveled to Washington, D.C. last week to receive the “Chapter of the Year” award on behalf of ThinkFirst Navajo, the Navajo Nation chapter of ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation. (Courtesy photo)

ThinkFirst Navajo named Chapter of Year

TSÉYI' BUREAU

WINDOW ROCK - The Navajo Nation chapter of an international injury prevention program has been named the program's 2015 USA Chapter of the Year.

ThinkFirst Navajo, sponsored by Eve's Fund, received the honor from ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation.

Eve's Fund President Barbara Crowell Roy and founder Robert M. Crowell, along with Cecelia Fred, one of ThinkFirst Navajo's Voices for Injury Prevention speakers, traveled to the 2015 ThinkFirst Conference on Injury Prevention, held May 1-4 in Washington, D.C., to receive the honor.

Fred was also one of the presenters at the conference.

TFNIPF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing brain, spinal cord, and other traumatic injuries through education, research, and advocacy.

TFNIPF has 190 chapters throughout the United States and around the world. Of these, ThinkFirst Navajo is the only one that operates exclusively on a federally recognized Native American Indian reservation, an area where injury rates are three times the national average.

“ThinkFirst Navajo was selected to receive the Chapter of the Year award because its programs

meet each of the three core elements of the ThinkFirst mission: education, research, and advocacy,” said TFNIPF 2015 Awards Committee Co-Chair Michelle Gibler, Ph.D. “Members of the ThinkFirst Navajo team travel thousands of miles across three states to deliver injury prevention education to the people of the Navajo Nation.”

ThinkFirst Navajo is one of the most active ThinkFirst chapters in the country. Since the program was started by Eve's Fund in late 2005, its VIP (Voices for Injury Prevention) speakers — all adult Navajos with paraplegia — have educated more than 35,000 Navajo schoolchildren on the Navajo Nation about injury prevention and distributed hundreds of safety helmets.

In addition to providing culturally sensitive, free education to schools on the Navajo Nation, ThinkFirst Navajo also provides additional peer mentoring, support, and training to the program's VIP speakers.

“We are so grateful to ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation for recognizing the value of the work we are doing, not only in teaching young Native Americans how to use their minds to protect their bodies, but in advocating for disability rights and improving the quality of life of our VIPs,” said Barbara Crowell Roy, president of Eve's Fund.

Information: evcrowelsfund.org

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