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Office of Children's Services director awarded national honor

Lawton receives 2015 Betsey Rosenbaum Award

ANCHORAGE —The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) has awarded OCS Director Christy Lawton the 2015 Betsey Rosenbaum Award.

This award honors a state or local public child welfare agency administrator who has “demonstrated leadership, innovation and a commitment toward safer children and stronger families.” Lawton was selected for her “dedication and passion to improve outcomes for Alaska Native children in Alaska.”

In her letter to Lawton notifying her of the award, Julie Krow, President of NAPCWA, wrote: “Your leadership in facilitating the first Tribal maintenance agreement with Tanana Chiefs demonstrates the impact of your work in improving child welfare practice and influencing policy. Those who submitted recommendations noted your efforts to recruit and train a workforce capable of delivering trauma-informed care and respond effectively to Alaska Native and American Indian children in the state’s child welfare system. We are truly inspired by your work, proud to have you as a champion in our field and honored to present you with this year’s award.”

“Humbled doesn’t even begin to describe how I feel about winning this prestigious award,” Lawton said. “Behind every leader is an amazing team of unsung heroes and that is certainly true in my case. I’ve been fortunate to have the best of the best working

alongside me, all of whom are dedicated to the health and success of the families we serve. I am supremely grateful for their commitment and dedication to our collective goals for Alaska’s child welfare system as well as to ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of the children for whom we are responsible.”

Lawton, who is from Fairbanks, has worked in OCS for 17 years. She was named acting director of the division in 2010 and officially appointed in 2011. She will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., June 6, 2015.

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