

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! Even though school is out for the summer, it is academic award season in the Chickasaw Nation. We are so proud and thankful for all our Chickasaw students and wish them much success in the future!

Kudos to many Chickasaw scholars! Latisha Stick has earned a Gates Millennium Scholarship. Latisha is the daughter of Martin and Loeta Stick. Loeta is a personal friend and an employee of the Ada senior site. Dusty Newport and Randi Howard are the JOM High School Students of the Year. Randi competed in an academic competition in Washington, DC, this year. JOM Junior High School Students of the Year are Michael Roberts and Madison McKenzie. Kudos are also due to the JOM Elementary Students of the Year from Ada; Allison Keel, Brayden Wesley, Holly Holman, Kayla Wilson, Jade Waldrop, Micah Hart, Austin Sollosso, Julia Smola, Jayston Shaw, Camron Large, Tyler Rowe, Nikki Weems, Cecil Stevens and Taylor Bohanon.

I attended the meeting of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes in Tulsa where Chickasaw students Michaela Worcester and Chase Burris received JOM Scholarships. Michaela is the daughter of Kevin and Lynn Worcester, longtime employees of the Chickasaw Nation, and she has received several other scholarships as well.

Also at the Intertribal Council meeting, Jeanette Hanna, Area Director of the BIA in Muskogee, bragged about the Chickasaw Nation Health System being the first Indian health system to employ electronic health records for its patients. The system is important to us because it will eventually allow the hospital and all clinics to share health information on patients. Many thanks to the Health System employees for their dedication and hard work to implement the state-of-the-art system!

Former Legislator and now State Representative Lisa Johnson Billy attended the Intertribal

Council along with her Indian colleagues. They are forming a caucus of Native American Oklahoma Representatives so that the Indian voice will be heard in the state government. Thank you, Ms. Billy, for your hard work!

Our Health System Administrator, Bill Lance, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Health Care Committee that was chock full of informative statistics about the health care we provide to Native Americans. There is too much information for me to include in this article. However, I do want to tell you that the Ada Service Unit user population is 30, 136, inpatient user population is 78,241 and the number of active patients is 110,665. I will report additional statistics next month.

Please contact me through my email address [mary.green@chickasaw.net](mailto:mary.green@chickasaw.net) or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. I look forward to speaking with you! Until next month, thank you.