



Vargas Honored for Minority Health Leadership

Martin Vargas of Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska recently received the Ms. Joyce Harrison Memorial Minority Health Leadership Award by the Nebraska Public Health Conference.

The award recognizes an individual who has exhibited outstanding leadership in bringing and/or improving racial/ethnic minority health services in Nebraska.

Factors taken into consideration include advocating for compassionate and comprehensive health care services in communities of color; and collaboration and multi-disciplinary teamwork. Also taken into account are one's continuous direct and effective involvement in the racial/ethnic minority community enhancing the quality of life in his or her home area. They are to be an influential role model to racial/ethnic minorities, involved in education, and providing a lasting contribution to the minority health care system.

“Martin fit the category very well,” Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services’ Debora Barnes-Josiah, PhD said.



“I was truly honored (to receive the award),” Vargas said. “It reinforces my commitment to what I am doing here at Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska.

Vargas is the Director of the Minority Health Program at Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska. He has been with Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska for six years.

Over those years he's watched "people become more open minded to cultural diversity," he said.

He has helped increase minority health screenings to over 1,000 last year, and helped to bring on two full-time medical interpreters and trained over 14 other part-time interpreters.

The Minority Health program at Community Action serves over 1000 clients every year across six counties in the Panhandle of Nebraska (Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, Morrill, Cheyenne, Kimball and Banner).

Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska is a non-profit agency. Our goal is to strengthen individuals, families and communities by helping people to help themselves and each other. Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska is made up of five main departments; the Child Development Programs, the Health Programs, the Youth Programs, the Housing Programs, and the Family and Community Programs. Funding for Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska comes through a number of federal, state, and local grants as well as contributions from organizations, businesses and individuals. For more information contact Brad Staman, Director of Development and Community Relations at 308-633-3306 or bstaman@capwn.org.