

News Release



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Southcentral Foundation President/CEO to Receive Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Southcentral Foundation (SCF) announced that its president and CEO, Dr. Katherine Gottlieb, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) during Sunday's commencement ceremony.

According to the University of Alaska Anchorage, the criterion for individuals to receive an honorary degree from the UA system is evidence of a significant and lasting contribution to the university, to the State of Alaska, or to the individual's discipline or profession. Dr. Gottlieb was recognized for her leadership in transforming health care services for Alaska Native people.

"Under your leadership, you demonstrated that high-quality health care and effective preventive services are possible, even in communities facing obstacles of poverty and geographic isolation," UAA Chancellor Tom Case said. "You are an innovative and visionary leader, and the university is proud of your dedicated work and feels this recognition is deeply deserved," he added.

"It is humbling and a blessing to receive this honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska Anchorage where I started my journey in academia," Dr. Gottlieb said. "It is an acknowledgement of work done together with the Southcentral Foundation family and the backing of my own dear loved ones."

Dr. Gottlieb joined SCF in 1987 as a receptionist and has served at the helm of the organization since 1991. She is a tribal member of the village of Old Harbor, a tribal member and elected tribal council member for Seldovia Village Tribe, and an honorary member of the Native Village of Eklutna.

Under Dr. Gottlieb's direction and guidance, SCF has become a global leader among health care organizations and recognized for its award-winning Nuka System of Care. She is a visiting scientist at Harvard Medical School, was a founding board member of Cook Inlet Native Head Start, served on the National Library of Medicine Board of Regents, currently serves on the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Board of Directors, and is active at the national level in advocating for Alaska Native and American Indian policy issues.

About Southcentral Foundation

Southcentral Foundation is an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization. Managing more than 80 health care programs and services, SCF serves 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough and 55 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit.

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