

Erica (Fleury) Zimprich

LCDR Erica Zimprich is a descendent of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. She graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the South Dakota State University, College of Pharmacy in 2012 and then with her Masters in Healthcare Administration from Oklahoma State University, School of Health Care Administration in 2016. She obtained a Certificate in Public Health from North Dakota State University, and maintains certifications in Advanced Cardia Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Immunization Delivery.

LCDR Zimprich began her career with the United States Public Health Service in 2008 serving as a JRCOSTEP at the Fort Thompson Indian Health Center. She went on to complete two additional tours as a JRCOSTEP in Pine Ridge and then back at Fort Thompson in 2009 and 2010, before serving as a

SRCOSTEP with the Lower Brule Indian Health Center in 2011. She practiced as a staff pharmacist in Lower Brule from May 2012-February 2014, then transferred to her current position as an Advanced Practice Pharmacist at the Fort Thompson Indian Health Center in March of 2014.

LCDR Zimprich is a strong advocate for improving health literacy in Indian Country. She believes that knowledge is power, and goes above and beyond to provide her patients with educational opportunities that will help them improve their overall health and well-being. She developed, organized, and implemented a quarterly educational event called “Rock the Halls” that brings staff out from behind the walls and into the halls to interact with and educate patients. This not only allows quality information about healthcare to be shared, but also gives staff and patients the unique opportunity to interact and build genuine and trusting relationships outside the typical healthcare setting. Developing these relationships allows easier communication between staff and patients, leading to shared decision making when it comes to treatment plans and outcomes.

LCDR Zimprich has had the opportunity to be involved in numerous activities in support of the United States Public Health Service as well. She was appointed by the United States Surgeon General to serve two terms as a voting member of the American Indian/ Alaska Native Commissioned Officer Advisory Committee (AIANCOAC) where she served three years as the Membership Subcommittee Chair. In 2019, she started her third year sitting on the Great Plains Area Commissioned Corps Awards Review Team. She has served as both a mentee and mentor in the Junior Officer Advisory Group’s JRCOSTEP Mentoring Program. In September of 2017 she was selected as the National Pharmacy Council Recruitment and Retention Committee’s Lead JRCOSTEP Coordinator, where she works to bring student pharmacists into the Corps. She has been acknowledged with United States Public Health Service Awards for her work with students, her efforts in improving antibiotic stewardship, and her exceptional work with the AIANCOAC. Most recently she was awarded the Annie Dodge Wauneka Award for demonstrating significant contributions in enhancing the health care of American Indian and Alaska Natives through community-based education. She is passionate about building her leadership skills while having a positive impact on minority officers, future pharmacists, and the people she proudly serves.

