

# INDIAN 101

NARU MUI FILMS PRESENTS

*LaDonna Harris*

## **MICHAEL MAHSETKY/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)**

Michael Mahsetky has worked closely with LaDonna Harris in Washington D.C. for the past 35 years, lobbying for various congressional bills alongside LaDonna. Mr. Mahsetky, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Indian Health Service (IHS). He began his career with the IHS in 1988 as Chief of the Legislative Branch in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Legislation at the IHS Headquarters. Before joining the IHS legislative team, he served seven years as a staff attorney with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. From 1969 to 1980, Mr. Mahsetky worked in the Dallas, Texas area before entering law school. He helped establish the Dallas Inter-Tribal Health Center and later served as its director. He also served on numerous health and human rights advocacy organizations such as the Greater Dallas Human Relations Commission and the Goals for Dallas Task Force on Family. In 1978, he was recognized as one of ten outstanding citizens of Dallas for his contributions to improving the lives of Indian people. The State of Texas also recognized him for his work in children's health care. He also served on the Board of Directors for the American Indian Health Care Association and presented testimony in Congress on the need for health care funding for urban Indians. Later he worked on the first authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. While living in Dallas, through his love of the arts, he helped establish the Dallas Minority Repertory Theater and later served as its Executive Director.