
NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2009

AMERICAN INDIAN DISABILITY SUMMIT HONORS ABIL PEER MENTOR VOLUNTEER WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), Arizona's largest center for independent living serving people with disabilities, is pleased to announce that peer mentor volunteer Tony Trujillo has been awarded the Marcus Harrison, Jr. Leadership Award at the 5th Annual American Indian Disability Summit.

Trujillo is an American Indian with quadriplegia and was honored for his strong commitment to working with other American Indians with disabilities through ABIL's peer mentor program. Peer mentors are volunteers who donate their time to work one-on-one with other persons with disabilities to reach their independent living goals, such as increasing self-advocacy skills, self esteem and adjustment to living with a disability.

In addition to his work with ABIL, Trujillo is a long-time member of VOICE, an advocacy and support group for people with disabilities. He is also a member of the Glendale Community College Adapted Fitness Center, where he works out several times a week and assists other members with encouragement and support to reach their own fitness goals.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Tony for several years," said April Reed, volunteer coordinator for ABIL. "His dedication, warm personality and openness to

share his personal experiences have made him a valued member of our peer mentor team.”

The American Indian Disability Summit began in 2004 as a way to provide for interaction, networking, education and support of American Indians with disabilities and their families, and a way to bridge opportunities and resources in rural and urban tribal communities.

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living offers and promotes programs designed to empower people with disabilities to take personal responsibility so that they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. The independent living philosophy states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options, and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities.