

BIOGRAPHY - AMBROSE, CONNIE BIO 00039

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Your neighbors

Former Miss Yakima Valley Y's Woman of Achievement

Connie L. Ambrose, a former Miss Washington and administrator at the Toppenish office of the Department of Social and Health Services since 1989, was given the Yakima YWCA's Woman of Achievement Award last week.

Ambrose, 38, of White Swan, has been in charge of the Toppenish DSHS office since Jan. 9, 1989. She was nominated for the YWCA award by DSHS Community Resource Program Manager Faye Brandt.

The Women of Achievement Dinner is a celebration of accomplishment by women in the Yakima Valley. Each year women are given the YWCA award in six different categories. Ambrose was honored for her work in community service.

The guest speaker for this year's event was Bonnie Dunbar, the Outlook-born NASA astronaut.

In nominating her, Brandt said Ambrose has improved the DSHS operation with a "positive attitude of the community service office and government in the community."

"Cultural sensitivity has been a high priority with the community and staff. Connie has built bridges and promoted healing between diverse factions and cultures," Brandt said.

Brandt said Ambrose "will go the extra mile" for people in and out of the welfare system.

Ambrose, a member of the



Connie Ambrose

Yakima Indian Nation, was Miss Yakima Valley and Miss Washington as a teenager, but she was humbled by this award.

"It's not something I go out seeking for myself. I was pleased but embarrassed at the same time," Ambrose said.

In addition to performing her duties at the DSHS, the Stanford University Master's degree holder and White Swan High School

graduate continues to be involved in her community.

She is a member of the Private Industry Council, Women's Reading Circle and White Swan Women's Club. She is a former member of the Yakima Coalition for the Homeless and a former organizer of the White Swan community clean-up in 1988 and 1989.