

# Rural Health Professional of the Year Award

This award is presented to an individual deserving of recognition for their efforts in rural health in Michigan. The award is granted to an individual who has carried out exemplary work in promoting health in rural areas, shown excellent leadership in the improvement of health care services to the rural areas of Michigan, and has made worthy contributions to the improvement of health to the people in rural Michigan.

## Previous Award Winners:

**2024** Laura Glenn, COO, of Munson Healthcare

**2023** Mariah Hesse, CNO, of Sparrow Clinton Hospital

**2022** Emily Bergquist, MDHHS Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness & Sam Watson, Michigan Health & Hospital Association & Julie Novak, Michigan State Medical Society & Philip Bergquist, Michigan Primary Care Association & Keisha Sexton, Michigan Rural Health Clinic Network & Kris Nicholoff, Michigan Osteopathic Association & Norm Hess, Michigan Association of Local Public Health

**2021** No Award

**2020** Duke Anderson, President, CEO, Hillsdale Community Health Center

**2019** Mark Hamed, MD, MBA, MPH, Medical Director of McKenzie Health System's ED/Hospitalist program, Medical Director for Public Health in Sanilac, Tuscola, Huron and Lapeer counties

**2018** Andrea Wendling, M.D., Director of Rural Community Health, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University

**2017** John Barnas, Executive Director, Michigan Center for Rural Health

**2016** Brian Brasser, President, Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals.

**2015** Steve Barnett, President & CEO, McKenzie Health System

**2014** Donna Kubic, Managing Director, Beaver Island Rural Health Clinic

**2013** Colleen Johnson, Practice Administrator, Lakeshore Medical Centers

**2012** Marjorie Young, Executive Director, Pine Medical Group

**2011** William J. Hart, Jr., Michigan Department of Community Health

**2010** Ron Nelson, President, Health Services Associates

**2009** William "Pat" Miller, President and CEO, Caro Community Hospital

**2008** Sally Davis, MAE, Telehealth Consultant, Midwest Alliance for Telehealth and Technology

Resources

**2007** Charles "Chuck" A. Bianchi, CEO, Hillsdale Community Health Center

**2006** Wayne Hellerstedt, CEO, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital

**2005** Ed Gamache, CEO, Deckerville Community Hospital

**2004** Ned B. Hughes, Jr., Gerber Memorial Hospital

**2003** Douglas E. Pattullo, CEO, West Branch Regional Medical Center

**2002** Dee McKrow, CEO, Hills and Dales General Hospital

**2001** Jeffrey L. Elliott, Administrator/Health Officer, Van Buren/Cass County

**2000** Linda Shively, Executive Director, Baldwin Family Health Care

**1999** Chris Curtin, Community Services Network of Michigan

**1997** Dwight Gascho, CEO, Scheurer Hospital

**1996** Donald W. Gast, Southwest Michigan RHC

**1995** Dr. Philip Lange, Beaver Island RHC

**1994** Dr. Tom Johnson, Michigan State University