Rural Health Professional of the Year Award
In Honor of Loren O. Gettel

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:
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
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