

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

2016 Brian Brassler, 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