



Contact: Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director
518-527-3547

For Release: May 18, 2022

PROFESSIONALS AND ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THEIR PEERS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

(Albany, New York) - The New York State Public Health Association (NYSPHA), New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO), New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH) and New York State Conference on Environmental Health Directors (CEHD) recently recognized professionals and organizations for outstanding service in the field of public health.

The awards were presented in person during the 2022 Public Health Partnership Conference, held in Niagara Falls on April 27-29. Each award winner was nominated by fellow public health professionals from across the state.

Award winners include:

- Citation for Outstanding Leadership in Public Health in New York State. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership efforts: Emma Hulse, MS RD, Program Manager, CHALK in the School, New York-Presbyterian.
- Citation for Outstanding Leadership in a Local Public Health Department in New York State. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding leadership efforts: Irina Gelman DPM, MPH, Orange County Health Commissioner.
- Citation for Outstanding Leadership in Public Health in New York State (Organization). This award recognizes an organization for outstanding leadership: Christopher Morley, PhD, MA, Chair, Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical University.
- Hermann M. Biggs Memorial Medal and Certificate. This lifetime achievement award honors and recognizes an individual with demonstrated outstanding achievements in public health in New York State: Daniel Stapleton, Niagara County Public Health Director.
- Lifetime Achievement in Public Health Policy Leadership Award: Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried (D/WF – Manhattan).
- Legislator of the Year Award. This award recognizes a legislator who has been a public health champion and who has been supportive of public health issues: Robert Purtell, Montgomery County Legislator (D-Amsterdam).
- Membership Award. This award recognizes a member for their contributions to public health and NYSPHA: Erin Sinisgalli, MPH, MCHES, NYSPHA Executive Director.

- Local Health Department Health Equity COVID-19 Response Award. This award recognizes a local health department or professional for provision of exemplary health equity initiatives led during their COVID-19 pandemic response: Nassau County Department of Health, Lawrence Eisenstein, MD, MPH, FACP.
- Environmental Health Leadership Award. This award recognizes a department or individual that has made longstanding contributions to the field of public health through work within a local health department or a state district or regional office: Eric Wohlers, P.E, Cattaraugus County Health Department.

NYSACHO President Dr. Indu Gupta said: “These awardees have been recognized for their exemplary leadership and service in protecting public health. They each represent the commitment to excellence, service and duty that every public health professional and organization has demonstrated throughout one of the most challenging public health emergencies in recent history. To all the awardees, and to every public health professional and organization, we offer our profound gratitude and boundless admiration.”

NYSPPHA President Denise Tahara, Ph.D., said: “This year’s awardees inspired us through their stewardship, commitment, and community collaborations. As public health leaders across the state, they demonstrated their character and resolve to continue guiding us through the pandemic and worked tirelessly alongside our frontline workers to keep our communities safe.”

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ABOUT NYSPHA: The New York State Public Health Association is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association and serves as a statewide organization for members from all disciplines in the public health spectrum including state and county health departments, healthcare; policy and advocacy organizations; community based health and human service programs and workers; academia and research. NYSPHA advocates for policies at the national, state and regional levels that support equity in health status and an end to health disparities for all. NYSPHA is among the nation’s oldest, independent, nonprofit public health organizations. Visit nyspha.org for more information.

ABOUT NYSACHO: The New York State Association of County Health Officials is a membership association representing all 58 local health departments in New York State. NYSACHO supports, advocates for, and empowers local health departments in their work to promote health and wellness and prevent disease, disability and injury throughout New York State. NYSACHO is recognized as the collective voice leading policy, education, and advocacy to create healthy, safe communities in New York State. Visit nysacho.org for more information.

ABOUT NYSARH: The mission of the New York State Association of Rural Health is to improve the health and well-being of rural New Yorkers and their communities. NYSARH functions as the “voice for rural health.” NYSARH advocates at the national and state levels on behalf of its membership. Visit nysarh.org for more information.

ABOUT CEHD: Since its inception more than 35 years ago, the New York State Conference of Environmental Health Directors strives to improve environmental health programs and services across New York State.