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WHA 2021 Nominating Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

WHA is now accepting nominations for its annual Distinguished Service Award and Trustee Award. These important awards recognize those who display leadership, dedication and professionalism to their community or the Association.

You may know someone in your region, in your hospital or on your board of directors who deserves such an honor. You now have an opportunity to nominate him or her for one of these annual awards:

- **Distinguished Service Award** is presented to a senior health care executive who has made an exemplary commitment to WHA, his or her hospital and the communities he or she serves.
- **Trustee Award** honors a trustee of a WHA member organization who has made an exemplary commitment to his or her community and to the organization on whose board he or she serves.

Administrators, trustees, senior managers, nurse leaders, volunteers and others are encouraged to nominate someone to receive one of these honors. Information and award criteria can be found on the WHA [website](#).

The nominating committee will also make recommendations on new WHA board members. WHA members interested in being considered for, or wish to submit a candidate for, an at-large WHA board seat or the chair-elect position should contact either WHA President and CEO [Eric Borgerding](#) or WHA Nominating Committee Chair [Mike Wallace](#).

Nominations for both the awards and WHA board of directors are due Friday, Sept. 3.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

August 25

AP Automation for the Modern Hospital – Part 3: Are your Business Payments Safe? Fraud awareness Webinar Series

August 31

The Winning Race: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coaching Clinic Part 5: Diversity Pipeline Development Webinar

September 2

Quality Improvement Series - Part 2: Interpreting Data and Improvement Webinar

DQA Program Assists Providers Interested in Training Their Own Nurse Aides

To help address the shortage of nurse aides, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) developed the Nurse Aide Emergency Training Program (ETP) and a webpage with resources for health care providers interested in training their own nurse aides.

Reminding providers of the program, DQA wrote, “Health care providers across the state report a severe shortage of nurse aides to care for their residents and patients. In response to this shortage, over 135 providers in Wisconsin have begun to train their own staff in-house through the Nurse Aide Emergency Training Program with excellent results. The ETP may be a good fit for your organization, too.” DQA noted the ETP “offers a way to increase the number of nurse aides at your facility or agency.”

For health care providers interested in pursuing the ETP, additional information is available on a [DQA webpage](#).

Reminder: Applications for GME Residency Expansion Grants due Aug. 31

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is [seeking applicants](#) for a new round of funding aimed at growing our own physicians by expanding existing Graduate Medical Education (GME) program class size and creating new rural clinical training sites.

DHS anticipates making awards to several hospital and GME programs in this latest round of funding. Grant recipients will receive \$75,000 per year per new resident position for a maximum of three full-time DHS-supported positions at any one point in time, or \$225,000 per year per hospital and program.

WHA spearheaded the creation of these GME grants based on its research-based “grow our own” formula: A student of a Wisconsin high school (or with other connections to the state) who graduates from a Wisconsin medical school and completes a Wisconsin residency has a significantly greater likelihood of remaining in Wisconsin to practice.

Wisconsin’s strategic investment—over \$20,000,000 in expansion grants and matching funds to date—and the public-private partnerships formed as a result of the GME grant program are paying off. The “grow our own” equation works. Since DHS implemented these grants in 2013, the expansion grants have supported eight existing GME programs to increase capacity by 32 residency positions. 70% of the physicians completing these residencies have remained in Wisconsin to practice.



GME Residency Expansion Grant applications will be accepted until noon on Aug. 31, 2021. Applications can be found on the [DHS website](#).

Wisconsin hospitals currently hosting GME residents are encouraged to work with their GME program partners to expand residency slots and grow much-needed physicians for Wisconsin.

Contact WHA Senior Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Practice [Ann Zenk](#) with questions.

Community Benefits Stories Due Aug. 30

WHA thanks all who have submitted stories for WHA’s Community Benefits Report so far. The goal is to have a story from each hospital in Wisconsin. The deadline for submitting community benefits stories for the 2021 Community Benefits Report is Monday, Aug. 30.

These stories will appear not only in WHA’s printed report, which will be shared with legislators and other health care stakeholders and decision-makers throughout the state, but also online, providing individual hospitals an opportunity to draw attention to their report submissions. Last year’s report and hospital stories can be viewed [here](#).

Stories should be around 250 words. Photos are encouraged, and hospitals can submit one story per category in each of the following four categories for this year’s report:

- **Charity care/free clinics:** Stories about how your hospital provides free care for those who cannot afford it are especially powerful.
- **Hospital-supported initiatives:** Identify a priority from your community health needs assessment and explain how the hospital/health system led an effort to address it.
- **COVID-19 Efforts:** Describe what your hospital faced as the pandemic hit our state and how you overcame those challenges, continuing to provide safe and high-quality care to your communities.
- **Health Equity:** How is your hospital or health system helping to ensure that your services are equally accessible to all members of your community, specifically populations exhibiting health disparities?

As a reminder, grants or donations from staff or the public do not qualify as a community benefit.

Members can submit stories through an [online form](#). Submitters are asked to include a photo with their stories to increase visibility and impact with legislators, the media and the public.

Questions can be directed to WHA Communications Manager [Shannon Nelson](#).