



IHA Celebrates 90 Years at Annual Convention, Recognizes Healthcare Excellence

Celebrating 90 years as the voice of Idaho hospitals, IHA members from across the state met this week to educate, encourage, and energize hospital leadership with renewed purpose and focus. Part of that gathering was devoted to recognizing the outstanding contributions of key individuals - administrators, doctors, nurses, and volunteers - to the success, stability, and progress of hospitals in Idaho.

"These award winners guided our healthcare systems - large and small - through the stress and uncertainty as we have emerged from the pandemic and now confront the challenges of infrastructure, workforce, and the pressures of a growing population," said Brian Whitlock, President and CEO of the Idaho Hospital Association. "We cannot fathom the impact these individuals made to keep the hospital doors open, their staff supported, their patients safe, and their communities resilient."

Kara Best, 2023 IHA Chair and CEO of Gritman Medical Center in Moscow, Idaho, stated, "Our hospitals face extraordinary challenges to meet the growing needs of our population, while fending off cuts and trying to rebuild our workforce. However, these award recipients are the people who inspire us to continually do better...as individuals in the healthcare field and as organizations. I'm so grateful for their contributions and the examples they set for all of us."

2023 IHA Award Recipients

Jon Ness: Steven A. Millard Star Garnet Award (Kootenai Health)

Jeff Taylor: Special Recognition of Retirement (St. Luke's Health System)

Sheila Carter: Leader of Volunteer Excellence (Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center)

Elaine Bohn: Trustee of the Year (Nell J. Redfield Memorial Hospital)

Dr. Charles Novak: Excellence in Medicine Award (Cottonwood Creek Behavioral Hospital)

Benjamin Watland: Award of Excellence in Patient Care (Saint Alphonsus Health System)

Not Pictured:

Aatman Jindal: Junior Volunteer of the Year (Saint Alphonsus Health System)

Abner King: IHA Advocate of the Year (Syringa Hospital and Clinics)

Jake Erickson: AHA Grassroots Champion (Bingham Memorial Hospital)