



2026

AWARDS

Idaho Hospital
Association

208.338.5100 | teamiha.org

P.O. Box 1278
Boise, ID 83701-1278

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Nominees will be scored on a 5-point Likert scale. The nomination narratives must address each of the specific criteria underlined in the award description.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Nominations must be submitted in the format described below and must include the following:

- Completed nomination form.
- Single-spaced, Arial 10pt., 0.5" margins, written narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the award based on the criteria set forth in the award description (not to exceed one page.)
- Pertinent supplementary materials may be submitted via e-mail or USPS to support each nomination. Applications and supplementary materials will not be returned.
- Photo of nominee—High Resolution (300 dpi or higher)

SELECTION PROCESS:

All nominations will be reviewed and scored on a 5-point Likert scale based on the criteria listed in the award description.

- ***Steven A. Millard Star Garnet Award***
- ***Trustee of the Year Award***
- ***Excellence in Medicine Award***
- ***Award of Excellence in Patient Care***
- ***Special Recognition of Retirement***
- ***Leader of Volunteer Excellence (LOVE) Award***
- ***Jr. Volunteer of the Year Award***

AWARD PRESENTATION:

Selected recipients of the Steven A. Millard Star Garnet, Trustee of the Year, Excellence in Medicine and Award of Excellence in Patient Care will be notified in June/July and invited to accept their award on Tuesday, September 29 at the IHA Annual Convention in Sun Valley. Arrangements will be made for a member of the IHA staff to present the Leader of Volunteer Excellence (LOVE) and Jr. Volunteer of the Year at their respective hospitals.

NOMINATION DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION:

All nominations must be received by IHA no later than 11:59 p.m. on **May 29, 2026**. Nominations must be completed online at <https://teamiha.org/>

Direct questions to:

IHA
208.338.5100
sdazzio@teamiha.org

Steven A. Millard Star Garnet Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The ***Steven A. Millard Star Garnet Award*** is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the Idaho Hospital Association and recognizes **significant career contributions and service to health care institutions and associations**. It is presented to an individual who **epitomizes the highest levels of excellence and achievement** in such a way that **others are inspired to excel**. The recipient shall be an individual whose career achievements in the hospital or health field have provided **leadership in health care delivery and service to patients and communities**.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Steven A. Millard Star Garnet Award*, the individual nominee must have exemplified outstanding leadership in the pursuit of healthcare excellence.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Dr. Bart Hill, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

2024

Odette Bolano, Trinity Health West Region/Saint Alphonsus Health System, Boise

2023

Jon Ness, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2022

Sheryl Rickard, Bonner General Health, Sandpoint

2021

Governor Brad Little, State of Idaho, Boise

2020

Cynthia "Cy" Gearhard, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

Trustee of the Year Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The *Trustee of the Year Award* recognizes one hospital trustee who has made exemplary contributions to improve his or her hospital's service to its patients and community by:

- fostering and encouraging an **organizational culture** focused on delivering high quality care, achieving exemplary patient satisfaction, and maintaining a positive work environment;
- has demonstrated outstanding **leadership** and contributed to the continued viability of the organization;
- has been successful in generating public **interest in community** healthcare needs and enhancing the overall quality and scope of access to healthcare services provided to the community, and local, state or national healthcare initiatives; and,
- been involved in **board development** and recruitment, strategic and fiscal planning, building consensus within the organization, and with other healthcare providers and community stakeholders, advocating for improved healthcare in the state and/or local community.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Trustee of the Year Award*, the individual nominee must represent an IHA-member hospital or health system in good standing have been actively involved with the hospital or health system for the last three years.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Robert Colvin, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2024

Katie Brodie, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2023

Elaine Bohn, Nell J. Redfield Memorial Hospital, Malad City

2022

Arthur F. 'Skip' Oppenheimer, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

2021

Elden Koon, Boundary Community Hospital, Bonners Ferry

2020

Darrel Anderson, Saint Alphonsus Health System, Boise

Excellence in Medicine Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The ***Excellence in Medicine Award*** recognizes a physician who exemplifies the medical profession's highest values: **commitment to service, community involvement, clinical excellence, altruism and leadership in the medical profession**. This individual will have made innovative contributions to the delivery of patient care by taking leadership actions to ensure quality patient care in his or her community and by displaying an unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Excellence in Medicine Award*, the individual must be a licensed MD or DO.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Dr. Kenneth Krell, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Idaho Falls

2024

Terry Jeppson, MD, FACOG, Cassia Regional Hospital, Burley

2023

Charles Novak, MD, Cottonwood Creek Behavioral Hospital, Meridian

2022

James 'Jim' Souza, MD, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

2021

Laura McGeorge, MD, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

2020

Samuel Gardner, MD, Steele Memorial Medical Center, Salmon

Award of Excellence in Patient Care

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The ***Award of Excellence in Patient Care*** recognizes a clinical or non-clinical individual with a focus on patient care at any level within an organization. The recipient of this award must display **professional knowledge** by staying connected to emerging national, state, and local patient care discussions, speaking on behalf of what is best for patients, and sharing his or her knowledge with interested colleagues and other healthcare stakeholders. The individual must also demonstrate their **leadership ability** as a patient care champion by implementing what they know, fostering and developing a culture of safety and elevating the importance of patient care innovation. The individual must embody a **passion for collaborative learning**, personifying an unselfish willingness to share ideas, methods, strategies, success stories and even disappointments, so that all patients and providers benefit from best practices.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Award of Excellence in Patient Care*, the individual nominee must represent an IHA-member hospital or health system in good standing.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Chantelle Traughber RN, Lost Rivers Medical Center, Arco

2024

Ernest Esparza, RN, PMH-BC, MSN, Cottonwood Creek Behavioral Hospital, Meridian

2023

Ben Watland, RN, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise

2022

Terry O'Connor, MD, St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center, Ketchum

2021

Sky Blue, MD, Sawtooth Epidemiology, Boise

2020

Noreen Womack, MD, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

Special Recognition of Retirement

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The ***Special Recognition of Retirement*** recognizes outstanding executives (C-Suite) within IHA member hospitals/health systems having served in capacities such as IHA board of directors and IHA committees.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Special Recognition of Retirement*, the individual must have recently or will soon retire.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Dallas Clinger, Power County Hospital District, American Falls

2024

N/A

2023

Jeff Taylor, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

2022

Betty Watson, Syringa Hospital & Clinics, Grangeville

2021

Sally Jeffcoat, Saint Alphonsus Health System / Trinity Health, Boise

2020

David C. Pate, MD, JD, St. Luke's Health System, Boise

Michelle Pond-Bell, Cassia Regional Hospital, Burley

Leader of Volunteer Excellence (LOVE) Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The **LOVE – Leader of Volunteer Excellence Award** is presented to an exemplary adult volunteer. Nominees for this award should be the pinnacle of your hospital's volunteer program and excel in areas such as patient services, community service, fund raising, leadership, or community outreach. When considering whom to nominate, think about that person whose work, personality, commitment, and compassion would be greatly missed if they quit coming to your hospital.

To nominate a volunteer, we request a letter by the volunteer services director, volunteer or auxiliary member, or a member of the hospital staff of not more than one page. Please make sure to include the following:

- + number of years as a volunteer in the hospital;
- + offices held; and
- + other community service, volunteerism, or advocacy.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the *Leader of Volunteer Excellence (LOVE) Award*, the individual must be a current or former adult auxiliary member or volunteer.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Vicky Durant, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2024

John Edgar, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2023

Sheila Carter, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Idaho Falls

2022

Rio Setty, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2021

Janie Nirk, Gritman Medical Center, Moscow

2020

Carolyn Strong, Gritman Medical Center, Moscow

Jr. Volunteer of the Year Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

The ***Junior Volunteer of the Year Scholarship Award*** is presented to an outstanding young volunteer and includes a college scholarship of at least \$1,000. For each nominee, their packet must contain:

- + One letter of nomination, not more than two pages in length. The letter should indicate the number of years the student has volunteered as well as any offices held. It may be signed by more than one person.
- + A one-page resume outlining the nominee's other community service, grades, and extracurricular activities as well as any other information pertinent to the nomination.
- + An essay written by the nominee, not more than two pages in length that answers one (or more) of the following questions:
 - Why do you volunteer?
 - What is a pivotal experience you've had while volunteering and what was the impact?
 - How will your hospital volunteer experience impact your career decisions?

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for the ***Junior Volunteer of the Year Scholarship Award***, the individual must be a high school student ages 14-19 who has participated at least 40 hours annually in a Junior Volunteer Program in an IHA member hospital, and who intends to seek higher education.

If your hospital has a summer only volunteer program, please indicate that in your nomination packet to allow the scoring to be adjusted appropriately.

RECENT RECIPIENTS:

2025

Taryn Lommasson, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2024

Hazel Howard, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2023

Aatman Jindel, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise

2022

Gracyn Kautzman, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene

2021

Defne Yuksel, Gritman Medical Center, Moscow

2020

Martina Hicks, Kootenai Health, Coeur d'Alene