



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ALLEN VAN DRIEL TO RECEIVE ASSOCIATION'S HIGHEST HONOR**

(Aug. 15, 2023) – It is with great pleasure that the Kansas Hospital Association announces Allen Van Driel, CEO, Smith County Memorial Hospital in Smith Center, is the recipient of 2023 Charles S. Billings Award.

The Charles S. Billings Award, named after the association's first president, was created in 1971 to recognize distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the field of health care in Kansas. The Kansas Hospital Association reserves this award for those who have shown their commitment, leadership and dedication to that noble pursuit. Van Driel, the 43rd recipient of this award, has demonstrated these qualities during his more than 40-year health care career.

Van Driel has served as the CEO at Smith County Memorial since 2013. During those years, he has been a steadfast advocate for Kansas hospitals and the communities they serve. For more than 30 years prior to joining SCMH, he served in a variety of health care-related positions, including as a CEO and chief operating officer in three Critical Access Hospitals. Prior to those leadership positions, he worked in clinical positions in respiratory care.

Allen's commitment and excellence in service to health care have been impactful throughout the Midwest. He is currently a member of the KHA Board of Directors and has served as the chair of the KHA Policy and Advocacy Committee from 2020 to 2022. Van Driel also serves and has served in leadership roles in regional, state and national health care organizations, including the American Hospital Association and the National Rural Health Association.

“Allen is a source of thoughtful, common-sense guidance for many health care leaders,” said Chad Austin, KHA president and CEO. “He is a humble leader who willingly shares his knowledge”

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 239 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is Optimal Health for Kansans.

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