



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BOB PAGE TO RECEIVE ASSOCIATION'S HIGHEST HONOR**

(Aug. 16, 2021) – It is with great pleasure that the Kansas Hospital Association announces Bob Page, president and CEO of The University of Kansas Health System, is the recipient of 2021 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. Page, the 42nd recipient of this award, has demonstrated these qualities during his 40-year health care career.

Since joining The University of Kansas Hospital in 1996, Page proactively focused on the quadruple aim for health care, establishing the state of Kansas (and TUKHS) as a national leader in patient satisfaction, harm reduction/patient survival, staff engagement and long-term sustainability. Page is passionate about improvement and using both new and tested approaches to address the emerging challenges facing health care. A few examples include: operationalizing evidence-based initiatives such as the 100K Lives Campaign, working across parties and boundaries to advance Medicaid expansion, establishing a collaborative model to improve rural health care in Kansas, and working across the state and the Kansas City metropolitan area to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there are many innovative initiatives Bob has championed, the one with the most impact across the entire state is the Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative (now Care Collaborative). Funded by a \$12.5M innovation grant offered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, this work targets the delivery of the best possible, most evidence-based care for time-sensitive diagnoses (AMI and

acute stroke)—no matter where patients present. This initiative includes work on an innovative payment model to support patient care and includes metrics related to quality, patient satisfaction, cost reduction sustainability and replicability. Launched with 11 hospitals, the Care Collaborative has grown to include 76 members in 69 counties across Kansas. The results speak for themselves—the percentage of patients receiving evidenced-based care has risen dramatically with the average cost of care being reduced by 22 percent. The Collaborative continues to grow in scope as new clinical conditions prioritized by participants are added.

Page served on the KHA Board of Directors from 2009-2019, serving as chair in 2018.

“Bob continues to be a staunch advocate for Kansas hospitals and the individuals they serve, opening doors, bringing people together and moving the needle,” said Chad Austin, KHA president and CEO. “He willingly shares his knowledge with local, regional and national health care and business leaders. His commitment and excellence in service to the health care of Kansans is unmatched.”

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 228 member facilities, of which 122 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is Optimal Health for Kansans.

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