



MEDIA RELEASE

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Individuals Recognized as the Heart of Health Care Awarded by the Kansas Hospital Association

(Oct. 2, 2025) – The Kansas Hospital Association recognizes hospital employees who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital through the Heart of Health Care Award. Hospitals across the state nominate individuals because they routinely go above and beyond the call of duty.

For the past several months, KHA has been recognizing individuals who were nominated for the Heart of Health Care Award. All these candidates demonstrated excellence in health care and routinely went above and beyond the call of duty. To just be nominated for this award is an honor. The six 2025 Heart of Health Care Award recipients are:

- Rebecca Finke, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission, Shawnee Mission
- Kevin Oehme, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Manhattan
- Jose Renteria, Phillips County Health Systems, Phillipsburg
- Janie Schmidt, Greeley County Health Services, Tribune
- Mike Stallbaumer, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca
- Christi Zimmerman, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park

These awardees were announced at the KHA Convention and Trade Show. Twenty-three additional hospital employees were nominated and recognized:

- Kristin Baker, Coffey County Hospital, Burlington
- Ashley Behymer, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center
- Brenda Blankenship, Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt
- Michelle Bohannon, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha
- Stacia Brown, Wamego Health Center, Wamego
- Jennifer Carney, Ascension Via Christi Rehabilitation Hospital, Wichita

- Loree Cordova, MD, AdventHealth Medical Group, Lawrence
- Cassie Crocker, SCK Health, Arkansas City
- Brittney Engel, Stormont Vail Flint Hills Campus, Junction City
- Tammy Field, McPherson Center for Health, McPherson
- Amanda Gaines, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City
- Janelle Gasper, Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems, Beloit
- Dwight Hawkins, AdventHealth South Overland Park, Overland Park
- Susan Newell, Jewell County Hospital, Mankato
- Nathan Norman, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka
- Alicia Oien, Decatur Health, Oberlin
- Jamie Phipps, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Medicine Lodge
- Cheryl Rickers, Meade District Hospital/Artesian Valley Health System, Meade
- Joilene Sandoval, Newman Regional Health, Emporia
- William Scott, NMC Health, Newton
- Robin Stapleton, Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha
- Angela Taylor, Rice Community Health, Lyons
- Jolene Wessel, Community HealthCare System, Onaga

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 242 member facilities, of which 124 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is Optimal Health for Kansans and Kansas Hospitals.

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