



**American Hospital
Association®**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carly Moore, AHA, 202-638-5487
Elizabeth Lietz, AHA, (202) 626-2284

AHA RECOGNIZES *GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONS*

WASHINGTON (April 11, 2014) - The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the state hospital associations, today announces the 51 individuals who will receive the American Hospital Association *Grassroots Champions Award*. As a 2014 Grassroots Champion, these individuals are being recognized for exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hospital's mission. Winners will be recognized at a special Breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

The American Hospital Association *Grassroots Champion Award* was created to recognize those hospital leaders who most effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the hospital's vital role in the community, who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital and who are tireless advocates for hospitals and their patients.

“We depend upon strong local voices to help tell the story of hospitals as cornerstones of the communities they serve,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “This award is a small token of our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these individuals to improving health and health care in America.”

The 2014 *Grassroots Champions* are:

Alabama – John D. O’Neil
President & CEO, St. Vincent’s Health System

Alaska – Rick Davis

Chief Executive Officer, Central Peninsula Hospital

Arizona – Ronald L. McArthur, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Summit Healthcare

Arkansas – Ray Montgomery

President & CEO, White County Medical Center

California – Peter Mackler

Executive Director, Government Relations and Policy, MemorialCare Health System

Colorado – Kent R. Helwig, FACHE

President & CEO, Southwest Health System, Inc.

Connecticut - R. Christopher Hartley

Senior Vice President, Planning, Business Development & Government Relations, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Delaware – Robert J. Laskowski, M.D., M.B.A.

President & CEO, Christiana Care Health System

Florida – D. Wayne Brackin

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Baptist Health South Florida

Georgia – Reynold Jennings

Chief Executive Officer, Wellstar Health System

Hawaii – Arthur Ushijima

President & CEO, The Queen's Health Systems

Idaho – Jeff Cilek

Vice President, External/Government Relations, St. Luke's Health System

Illinois – Alan H. Channing

President & CEO, Sinai Health System

Indiana – Craig Kinyon

President & CEO, Reid Hospital & Health Care Services

Iowa – Daniel Varnum

President & CEO, Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa

Kansas – Michael R. Burroughs, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Western Plains Medical Complex

Kentucky – Joseph Koch

Chief Executive Officer, Bourbon Community Hospital

Louisiana – Bill Davis, M.B.A.
Chief Executive Officer, Slidell Memorial Hospital

Maine – Douglas T. Jones, FACHE
President & CEO, Down East Community Hospital

Maryland - Eric R. Wagner
Executive Vice President, External Affairs & Diversified Operations, Medstar Health

Massachusetts – Howard Grant, J.D., M.D.
President & CEO, Lahey Health System, Inc.

Michigan – Paul E. LaCasse, D.O.
President & CEO, Botsford Health Care

Minnesota – Bradley Beard
President, Fairview Southdale Hospital

Mississippi – Alvin Hoover, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer, King's Daughters Medical Center

Missouri – John M. Dawes, FACHE
President & CEO, Bothwell Regional Health Center

Montana – Jeff D. Fee
Chief Executive, Providence Health & Services, Western Montana Region

Nebraska – Ronald Cork
President & CEO, Avera St. Anthony's Hospital

Nevada – Susan Davila
Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, Carson Valley Medical Center

New Hampshire – Anne Jamieson
Chief Executive Officer, Portsmouth Regional Hospital

New Jersey – Peter A. Kaprielyan
Vice President, Government & External Relations, Inspira Health Network

New Mexico – Bruce Tassin
President & CEO, CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center

New York – Kenneth L. Davis, M.D.
CEO & President, Mount Sinai Health System

North Carolina – Jay T. Briley
President, Vidant Duplin Hospital

North Dakota – Mariann Doeling

President, Carrington Health Center

Ohio – James Pancoast

President & CEO, Premier Health

Oklahoma – Jay Johnson

President & CEO, Duncan Regional Hospital

Oregon – James A. Mattes

President & CEO, Grande Ronde Hospital

Pennsylvania – Ed Pitchford

President & CEO, COLE Memorial

Puerto Rico – Pedro J. Gonzalez, MHSA, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Ashford Presbyterian Community Hospital

Rhode Island – Patricia R. Recupero, M.D.

President & CEO, Butler Hospital

South Carolina – Craig White

Vice President, Corporate Compliance & Integrity, Internal Audit, and Government Affairs, Self Regional Healthcare

South Dakota – Dan C. Ellis

Chief Executive Officer, Coteau des Prairies Health Care System

Tennessee – Anthony L. Spezia

President & CEO, Covenant Health

Texas – Tim P. Adams, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Central Region, Tenet Healthcare Corporation

Utah – Timothy T. Pehrson

Chief Executive Officer, Urban North Region - Intermountain Healthcare

Vermont – Steven R. Gordon

President & CEO, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

Virginia – H. Lee Kirk, Jr., FACHE

President & CEO, Culpeper Regional Health System

Washington – Gregg Agustín Davidson, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Skagit Regional Health

West Virginia – Wayne B. Griffith, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Princeton Community Hospital

Wisconsin – John Russell

President & CEO, Columbus Community Hospital

Wyoming – Ryan K. Smith

Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Hospital of Converse County

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 43,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

#####