

For Immediate Release

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Hospital Association of Rhode Island Honors “Hospital Heroes”

Warwick, R.I. – March 28, 2016 – Individuals from throughout the state were recently honored at “Celebration of Excellence in Hospital Care,” an annual awards ceremony held by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI). Employees of the year from HARI’s member hospitals were recognized by the HARI Board of Trustees for exemplary performance and dedication to health care. In addition, recipients of the Edward J. Quinlan Award for Patient Safety Excellence were honored.

Recipients of the Award for Excellence in Hospital Care include:

Geralyn Gabriel, Executive Secretary, Butler Hospital (*resident of Warwick*)
Keri Kinniburgh, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Fatima Hospital (*resident of Cumberland*)
Diane Ardito, Registered Nurse, Kent Hospital (*resident of Warwick*)
Christopher Wethey, Programmer/Analyst, Landmark Medical Center (*resident of Blackstone*)
Patricia Masse, Cook, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (*resident of Pawtucket*)
Jeannie Ursillo, Nurse Practitioner, Providence VA Medical Center (*resident of Smithfield*)
Daniel Albuquerque, HVAC Mechanic, Roger Williams Medical Center (*resident of North Smithfield*)
Diane Benson, Case Manager, Social Worker, South County Hospital (*resident of East Greenwich*)
Carol Desillier, Supervisor, Lobby Shop, Westerly Hospital (*resident of Mystic*)
Sheila Enderby, Oncology Nurse Navigator, Women and Infants Hospital (*resident of Providence*)

The Providence VA Medical Center and Westerly Hospital were the recipients of the Edward J. Quinlan Award for Patient Safety Excellence. The team at the Providence VA Medical Center was honored for successfully reducing the occurrence of health care-associated infections. They successfully implemented a bundle of infection control strategies including environmental management, hand hygiene, contact precautions, and cultural transformation. The Providence VA Medical Center also implemented an antimicrobial stewardship that has resulted in shorter lengths of stays, fewer adverse drug events, and significant decrease in the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics. The team at Westerly Hospital was honored for being the first hospital in Rhode Island to embark on a journey toward high reliability, a proven science involving specific safety behaviors and techniques designed to make hospitals safer for patients, staff and visitors. The award is a tribute to Edward Quinlan who championed quality improvement and patient safety initiatives while he served as president of HARI for two decades.

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Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.