

News Release

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Bluewater Health Honours Staff, Professional Staff & Volunteers

SARNIA & PETROLIA – April 17, 2019 – Bluewater Health staff, professional staff and volunteers were celebrated at Bluewater Health’s Annual Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, April 16 at the Dante Club in Sarnia.

In total 300 staff, professional staff and volunteers were recognized for a service anniversary from five to 45 years (in five year increments), and the careers of 48 retirees were honoured.

“We are extremely proud to celebrate the service and contributions of our staff, professional staff and volunteers,” said Mike Lapaine, President and CEO. “As valuable and valued members of our hospital team, their focus on quality patient and family-centred care for the Sarnia-Lambton community is unwavering. Every day, I am inspired by the outstanding commitment to healthcare that I see in this organization.”

This year, one individual was recognized for 45 years of service – Kathy Leasa, Day Surgery - Pre/Post-Op Care – while Dr. Richard Cheong, Family Practice, was honoured for 40 years of service.

Bluewater Health’s Bridging Excellence Awards recipients were also announced as part of the recognition event. These awards honour individuals and teams for their contribution, dedication and commitment to excellence while delivering exemplary healthcare to the Sarnia-Lambton community. The recipients of the 9th annual Bridging Excellence Awards are:

Values Awards

The category is based on the demonstrated values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Excellence (CARE).

The volunteer recipient of the Values Award is **Dick Wilson**. Dick advocates for “Emily” through his knowledge and experience as a patient and family member. He gives of himself on at least five committees at the hospital.

This year’s staff recipient of the Values Award is **Marcel Blais**. Marcel is a Nurse Practitioner who defines the term “exceptional patient care.” Marcel is passionate about his role and continually strives to develop himself professionally, inspiring others through his leadership to reflect on their own personal growth.

The Values Award was also presented to physician recipient **Dr. Emmanuel Anyaegbuna**. His commitment to leading practices for local patients is transforming the Bluewater Health program. In fact, under his leadership Bluewater Health now provides services once only available in bigger cities.

Vision Award

The Vision Award recognizes team excellence. To be considered, the team must represent an extraordinary orientation towards service to others through Bluewater Health’s Vision, Exceptional Care – Exceptional People – Exceptional Relationships.

This year's Vision Award recipient is the **Pharmacy Care Outpatient Pharmacy Team**. The team meets the specialized medication needs of the complex mental health patients served by the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team.

Mission Award

The Mission Award is for an individual (staff, physician or volunteer) who demonstrates an extraordinary, recognized energy in the way he or she lives Bluewater Health's Mission: We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.

This year's Mission Award recipient is **Lisa Hendra-Pavey**. Overseeing more than 500 volunteers – from students to seniors – Lisa, Manager, Volunteer is also active in many hospital activities, spearheads clothing drives and supports Bluewater Health's floats in the Santa Claus parades.

"The individuals and teams recognized with a Bridging Excellence Award go above and beyond everyday expectations to deliver on our Mission, Vision and Values with exemplary care and caring," said Paul Wiersma, Board Chair. "The Board of Directors is proud to recognize these deserving recipients for their dedication and outstanding achievements. The strength of Bluewater Health is its people, and by their example, these award recipients set the bar for performance excellence."

Bridging Excellence Awards were presented at last night's Recognition Ceremony where recipients received a bursary to continue their education and learning, a crystal keepsake award, and a copy of the video in which they were featured. To view the finalist videos on YouTube, please visit www.youtube.com/bluewaterhealth. Learn more about the people who work and volunteer at the hospital in Petrolia and Sarnia by watching *We Are Bluewater Health* – please visit <https://youtu.be/xxIMOYqdHbw>.

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health's Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time*. For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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