



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AOHP Recognizes 2017 Award Winners Presents North Kansas City Hospital with 2017 Business Award

PITTSBURGH – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) is pleased to announce North Kansas City Hospital as the recipient of the 2017 AOHP Business Recognition Award. The award was announced on September 8, 2017 at the AOHP Annual National Conference in Denver, CO. This award, created in 2007, recognizes a healthcare organization, business, corporation or government agency which actively supports occupational health professionals in healthcare and encourages their participation in AOHP programs and activities.

North Kansas City Hospital (NKCH), a metropolitan medical center with more than 3,400 employees, has expanded its Employee Health Department's scope of responsibility to keep pace with the hospital's growth, and a representative from the department is active on many internal committees that promote the health and safety of personnel. The department is prominent and easily accessible to all staff members, from physicians and advance practice professionals to volunteers and students. NKCH is the provider of choice to patients and clients, as well as the employer of choice for healthcare workers in its region, because of its commitment to employee wellness.

"As a world-class leader for occupational health and safety in healthcare, we appreciate this opportunity to recognize a hospital that actively promotes the health, safety and well-being of its staff," says AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss. "AOHP is honored to present NKCH with our 2017 Business Recognition Award in support of their efforts because healthy workers lead to healthy patients and a healthier community."

Other awards presented at the 2017 AOHP Annual National Conference, and their recipients, include:

- *Julie Schmid Research Scholarship* - To encourage, promote and strengthen the knowledge base and expertise of occupational health professionals in healthcare, AOHP presents this award for an original research project on a current or anticipated issue in the field. Award winner Denise Knoblauch, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM, FAAOHN, will present her research in an upcoming issue of the *AOHP Journal*.
- *AOHP Honorary Member Award Recipient* - MaryAnn Gruden, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, COHN-S/CM, who retired in 2017 after more than two decades in occupational health, was honored for her significant contributions to the field. She served on the AOHP Executive Board as Association Community Liaison, represented AOHP as a member of the NIOSH Respiratory Advisory Group, and is a member of The Joint Commission's Technical Expert Panel on Respiratory Protection in Healthcare. She was appointed to the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health Board of Scientific Counselors for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2016.

- *Joyce Safian Scholarship Award* - Named for the founder of the association, this award, including a monetary stipend to be used for educational purposes, is presented annually to a current or former AOHP officer. This year's winner is Peggy Anderson, RN, COHN/CM, who currently serves on the Executive Board as the Region 3 Director.
- *Extraordinary Member Award* - AOHP member Cory Worden, MS, CSP, CSHM, CHSP, ARM, REM, CESCO, was recognized by the association for his extraordinary leadership in the AOHP Houston Area Chapter, as a regular columnist for the association's quarterly peer-reviewed *Journal* and for his contributions to the field of safety in occupational health.
- *Sandra Bobbitt Scholarship* - These awards provide financial support for continuing education efforts of members. This year's four award recipients are: Jane Burnson, RN; Curtis Chow, FNP, PA-C, COHN-S, CEES, COEE, CSPHP; Roxanne Hupp, RN; and Julie Nicholas, RN, BSN, COHN-S.

AOHP is a national association representing thousands of healthcare workers whose vision is to be internationally recognized as the leading resource provider for occupational health professionals in healthcare. AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare personnel through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

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