



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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KHA Leadership Institute Graduates 32

(Topeka, KS – Sept. 30, 2024) – The Kansas Hospital Association Leadership Institute graduated its 22nd class of 32 students on Sept. 5 at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Overland Park, Kansas. Students were nominated by their hospital's CEO to be part of this select group. They represent the future leaders of Kansas hospitals.

Helping to build future health care leaders is important to the Kansas Hospital Association. “We are committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of hospital employees in Kansas,” said Chad Austin, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. The KHA Leadership Institute was established to help hospitals provide professional development opportunities that accentuate the personal skills and abilities needed to facilitate positive change and innovation in Kansas hospitals.

The 2024 Leadership Institute class was diverse. They represented a wide geographic distribution of hospitals from St. Francis to Satanta and Parsons to Lawrence – there was representation from all parts of the state. Students had been working in health care for as little as a year to more than 20 years. Several students have been in management positions while others were new managers. Some students also supervise other staff, from a few to more than 50 employees.

It is important to note that the students nominated to participate in this program were not selected because they needed to learn "management skills." They were nominated because their CEO recognized their potential to be future leaders and wanted to help cultivate that development. Each one of these students made a personal and professional commitment to expand their skills by attending all six courses of the Leadership Institute.

The curriculum was structured to enhance each student's leadership abilities. Course #1 focused on explaining the difference between leadership and management, identifying organizational values and creating a positive organizational climate. Course #2 focused on enhancing communication skills and grassroots advocacy. Course #3 focused on team building - including how to lead a team and how to be part of a team and Course # 4 examined conflict management. Courses #5 was at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show. Students learned about the challenges facing health care.

KHA Leadership Institute Class of 2024 (photo attached)

Wade Babcock, The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus, Great Bend

Brooke Bacon, LMH Health, Lawrence

Cindy Bass, Labette Health, Parsons

Tori Bowers, Memorial Health System, Abilene

Tanya Brabender, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Manhattan, Inc., Manhattan

Niki Buesing, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca

Teresa Ellis, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons

Carol Fickes, McPherson Hospital, Inc., McPherson

Brian Forinash, HaysMed, Hays

Gerald Fulton, Coffey County Hospital, Burlington

Cassandra Gilbert, NMC Health, Newton

Stacey Hardy, Osborne County Memorial Hospital, Osborne

Veronica Heredia, Satanta District Hospital, Clinics & LTCU, Satanta

Danelle Holzwarth, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha

Jason Johnson, Cheyenne County Hospital, Saint Francis

Michelle Johnson, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg

Kirstin Keller, Logan County Health Services, Oakley

Roy Kirk, Wichita County Health Center, Leoti

Ashley Lambert, Citizens Health, Colby

Marla McElderry, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina

Jodie Miller, Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg

Mellissa Mixon, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Medicine Lodge

Sarah Mohr, Norton County Hospital, Norton

Lindsey Osterhaus, Decatur Health, Oberlin

Tonya Powell, Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt

Cody Ray, Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka

Julie Robben, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital, Larned

Kim Smith, Fredonia Regional Hospital, Fredonia

Michael Thomas, Clara Barton Medical Center, Hoisington

Yadira Torres, Minneola Healthcare, Minneola

Jordan Trujillo, Greeley County Health Services, Tribune

Lee Wolf, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 237 member facilities, of which 121 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans."

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