

Each year, the AHHA Healthcare Champion Awards encourage, recognize, and reward individuals and teams taking progressive and effective steps to improve patient care and outcomes. Nominations open in April and awardees are selected and honored at our annual conference in September.

Nominations [should be submitted online](#). If you have questions or need assistance with submitting a nomination, please contact Jann Mylet, Director of Communications, at jmylet@alaskahha.org.

Award Categories:

The Golden Stethoscope Award

The Golden Stethoscope Award recognizes an advance practice provider or physician who consistently demonstrates their commitment to supporting and/or leading efforts that result in measurable improvements in the delivery of safe patient care.

Examples:

- Active participation/engagement on facility-based patient safety committees.
- Collaboration with facility personnel in developing protocols and/or care plans that include patient safety measures.
- Active surveillance and reporting of safety concerns; brings forth suggestions for improvement.
- Serves as a role model and example for other providers to follow, such as holding “crucial conversations” with peers as needed.

Front-Line Staff Outstanding Performance Award

Front-Line Staff Outstanding Performance Award recognizes an individual or team at a hospital or long-term care facility that has demonstrated above-and-beyond safety related performance in the workplace. This includes a wide range of workers such as nurses, nursing assistants, housekeepers, medical assistants, dietary service workers, and a host of others who work 24/7 to provide care. The nomination may describe a system or process improvement, or noteworthy front-line staff performance of safety practices.

Examples:

- Teambuilding activities that empower and encourage others, resulting in increased patient safety.
- Front-line staff ingenuity that solves organizational level challenges.
- Implementation of a major process improvement measure around high reliability.
- Helping other staff improve workspace and environment.

Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality Award

The Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality Award recognizes hospitals and/or long-term care facilities that have developed and implemented an innovative safety and/or quality process, project, or program, with measurably improved outcomes. This may include initiatives that



integrate high-reliability principles, address social determinants of health and health equity, enhance patient family engagement, or contribute to workforce development.

Examples:

- Efforts to address burnout, reduce staff turnover, and identify strategies to stabilize a facility's workforce.
- Care transition practices linking hospitals and nursing homes.
- Systematic reductions in harm resulting from initiation of clinical bundles.
- Patient care strategies which rely on data about patients' social risks to adapt medical care or improve patients' social circumstances directly.

Other Awards

Each year, when special circumstances warrant, AHHA's staff has the opportunity to give two awards to recognize extraordinary service beyond the award categories listed above.

The Paton Award is given in honor of Dr. William Paton, MD an Orthopedic surgeon with the Alaska Native Tribal Consortium. During his 40+ years in orthopedic medicine, he has traveled the width and breadth of the land, set thousands of bones, performed thousands of surgeries, and given hope to generations of Alaskans. In 2022, AHHA established a new category of recognition in his honor, the Paton Award. This award will recognize physicians with 40 years or greater of medical service to Alaska residents.

The Beacon Award recognizes an individual or a team whose work has made a notable impact by shedding light on an issue, or by helping to address a significant need within Alaska's healthcare delivery system.