



**IPHA 85TH ANNUAL
PUBLIC HEALTH
WORKFORCE CONFERENCE**

Together We Thrive

**AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP
PAST WINNERS (2026 EDITION)**

**Crowne Plaza Springfield - Convention Center
Springfield, Illinois**



SEPTEMBER 1-3 | 2026



Honoring Excellence In Public Health

The Illinois Public Health Association is proud to recognize the individuals and organizations who have made meaningful contributions to the health and well-being of communities across Illinois. Our awards honor those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, advocacy, and service in public health, while our scholarships support graduate students pursuing degrees in public health and public health-related fields, investing in the professionals who will shape the future of our field.

Each edition highlights recipients from the past five years, reflecting a period of both challenge and growth for public health in Illinois and beyond. The work of these honorees and the promise shown by our scholarship recipients speak to the strength and dedication that will carry public health forward in the years to come.

We are pleased to celebrate their achievements and contributions!





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2025 Award and Scholarship Winners

Emerging Public Health Leader

Adella Bass

Public Health Champion

Patrice Bradford

Health Equity

Dejuan Jones, Jr.

Public Health Program of Excellence

McLean County Health Department “PrEP for HIV Program”

CHW of the Year

Amanda McKinley

CHW Supervisor of the Year

Jeanette Avila

CHW Employer of the Year

Carle Health

Edith Heide Memorial Scholarship

Miranda Sellars

Graduate Study in Public Health Scholarship

Keara Gray

Kyla Jones

Caitlin Rosendorn



2024 Award and Scholarship Winners

Honorary Emeritus

Steve Laker

MaLinda Hillman

Public Health Program of Excellence

University of Illinois Springfield - MPH Program

Health Equity

Healing Illinois Initiative - Illinois Department of Human Services, Field Foundation of Illinois

Emerging Public Health Leader

Aisha Isa

Public Health Champion

Justin McDaniel

Public Health Mentor

Dr. Lauri DeRuiter-Willems

CHW of the Year

Jowanna Whitfield

CHW Supervisor of the Year

Carl Flowers

CHW Educator of the Year

Carl Flowers

CHW Employer

The HAP Foundation



2023 Award and Scholarship Winners

IPHA President's Recognition - President's Gravel Award - Award of Merit
Amal Tokars

Honorary Emeritus

Craig Beintema

Toni Corona

Amal Tokars

Public Health Program of Excellence

Kidney Mobile, National Kidney Foundation of Illinois

Public Health Advocacy

Mary Stapel

Emerging Public Health Leader

Joshua Egbedimame

Public Health Champion

Miguel Sarmiento

CHW of the Year

Francisco Valenzuela

CHW Supervisor of the Year

Latricia Caston

CHW Employer

NAACP - Madison

Edith Heide Memorial Scholarship

Maureen Burns

Graduate Study in Public Health Scholarship

Sarah Cimino

Me'Sha Burton

Claire Hughes



2022 Award and Scholarship Winners

IPHA President's Recognition - President's Gravel Award - Award of Merit
Sameer Vohra

Honorary Emeritus
Cathy Coverston Anderson

Everett L. Hageman Volunteerism
Letty Martinez

Public Health Program of Excellence
NAACP Illinois State Conference

Public Health Advocacy
John Peller

Emerging Public Health Leader
Cynthia Medina

Public Health Champion
Mark Pfister

Public Health Mentor
Elizabeth Squires

CHW of the Year
Nicholas Banning

CHW Supervisor of the Year
Erica Austin

CHW Employer
UI Miles Square



2022 Award and Scholarship Winners (cont.)

Edith Heide Memorial Scholarship

Jonathan Murphy

Graduate Study in Public Health Scholarship

Vinay Espinosa-Ravi

Cassie Hunt

Cynthia Medina



2021 Award and Scholarship Winners

IPHA President's Recognition - President's Gravel Award - Award of Merit

Dr. Ngozi Ezike
Barb Hohlt

Honorary Emeritus

Barb Hohlt
Eileen Durkin
Kathy Drea

Everett L. Hageman Volunteerism

Monde Nyambe

Public Health Program of Excellence

Howard Brown Health - Implementing Self-Testing for HIV and PrEP Monitoring

Public Health Advocacy

Monica Hendrickson
Jeff Workman

Emerging Public Health Leader

Tiffany Reed

Public Health Champion

Cathy Paone

Public Health Mentor

Krishna Bhagat

Edith Heide Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Reed

Graduate Study in Public Health Scholarship

Miranda Gurra
Magdalena Hamielec
Svetozara S. Zehireva



Contact Us!

For any questions about past award and scholarship winners, please contact:

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