



2016 Rural Health Practitioner of the Year

Dr. David Gutierrez of Franklin Medical Center

The Rural Health Practitioner of the Year recognizes a direct health care clinical provider for leadership in delivering health services to rural populations. Factors taken into consideration include providing outstanding care, involvement in the community, and lasting contributions to the health care system. The 2016 LRHA Rural Practitioner of the Year is a compassionate, general surgeon that goes above and beyond to assist his patients. He is recognized for his outstanding skills as a surgeon, for being an outstanding member of his community, for wholeheartedly caring about what happens to his patients, and for using his own time and resources to make sure they are taken care of. We are honored to recognize Dr. Gutierrez as the 2016 Rural Health Professional of the Year!

2016 Rural Health Professional of the Year

Peggy Gautreau with Total Family Medical

The Rural Health Professional of the Year award recognizes a health care administrator, or a Community Rural health care delivery practice for their leadership in health care services throughout Rural communities. Efforts taken into consideration include providing outstanding leadership, community involvement, lasting contributions to the health care system, as well as their out-reach efforts. The 2016 Rural Health Professional of the year is passionate about providing care in rural communities and she's simply amazing! Facing a daunting task ahead of her, this rural health care professional remained optimistic and never stopped until her clinic was back doing what it does best- taking care of her patients in Robert, La. This rural health care provider serves 2,000 low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents annually and is the only primary care resource for many patients. Just a few months ago, after heavy rainfall pushed more than 4 feet of water into the clinic and rendered it uninhabitable, she scrambled to secure a new location. Previous flooding in March drained the clinic's resources; therefore, she reached into her personal savings to reopen its doors. Our 2016 Rural Health Professional of the Year is humble, sincere, and truly committed to serving her community. It is an honor for LRHA to recognize Peggy Gautreau with Total Family Medical with the 2016 Rural Professional of the Year Award.

Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year

Dr. Blaine Borders

Franklin Medical Centers Heart, Lung and Vascular Clinic

The Outstanding Rural Health Professional of the Year award recognizes a program that promotes the development of rural health care delivery systems and provides increased access to health care services for rural populations. Factors taken into consideration include coordination, networking, innovation, and lasting impact. The 2016 LRHA Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year is led by a rural physician that saw a need in this community and wanted to help. His dedication to his community is reflected by building a facility that provides state of the art treatment for patients who have peripheral artery disease and other vascular issues. Without this program, patients would be forced to travel 50 miles one way to the closest facility for care and treatment. For many people in this community, transportation to the larger cities is difficult if not impossible. Not only is the lead physician of this program a very caring person, he is also a Christian. One of his patients of this vital program stated, "I can think of no better recipients for this award than Franklin Medical Center and Dr. Blaine Borders for giving the people of this region a local option for resolving their medical needs without having to drive over an hour to Monroe (or even farther). It is our honor to recognize Dr. Blaine Borders and Franklin Medical Centers Heart, Lung and Vascular Clinic as the 2016 Outstanding Rural Health Program of the Year!

Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year

Senator Bill Cassidy

Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year recognizes a Louisiana Legislator for outstanding leadership in promoting legislation to benefit access to quality care in rural communities. Factors taken into consideration include the wisdom and foresight in dealing with rural issues and the demonstrated leadership in addressing the health care needs of rural and underserved communities throughout Louisiana. Senator Bill Cassidy's life has been one of service as a doctor and as an elected official. Dr. Cassidy's concern for the uninsured and for families led him to co-found a clinic for the working uninsured; create a private-public partnership to vaccinate 36,000 school children in a 10 parish area against Hepatitis B; and led a team of volunteers to turn an abandoned K-Mart into a surge hospital to care for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. It is our honor to recognize Senator Bill Cassidy as the 2016 LRHA Legislator of the Year.

One America & the RAM Group's Employee Mini Appreciation Grant!

Claudia Wade ~Union General Hospital

The Employee Appreciation Mini Grant provided an opportunity for LRHA's C-Suite members to nominate a dedicated employee in acknowledgement of their dedication and support to their organization. The 2016 Employee Appreciation Mini grant award recipient is a dedicated and caring employee of Union General Hospital who works with all departments and always participates in any extra activities representing the hospital which fosters community development and pride. She provides interpretation services to assist Hispanic patients with language barriers to access needed health care services because she cares. As a hospital representative to many community activities, she provides a most energetic and positive influence. She has donated her time on the United Way board to determine who receives funding, she has been the driving influence and coordinator for the hospital outreach to teenage population for pregnancy prevention, STD awareness through our "It's a Girl Thing, Making Proud Choices" which helps teen girls between the ages of 12 and 18 build self-esteem and make better choices. On behalf of Union General Hospital Claudia led a team of her Girl program participating in the Farmerville Cleanup day providing an environment of do what I do, not what I say. She is out there with them developing relationships and showing these girls the RIGHT way to act. As a role model, you could not ask for a better example. We're honored to name Claudia Wade as One America's Employee Appreciation Mini Grant recipient.