



American College of Health Care Administrators  
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**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**American College of Health Care Administrators Announces 2016 Award Winners**

**Washington, DC – May 17, 2016** – The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) presented annual awards during a celebratory luncheon at their 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation and Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Congratulations to ACHCA's 2016 Award Winners!

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

Chair's Award - Barbara Acello  
Chair's Award - Theresa Sanderson, CNHA, FACHCA  
Distinguished Service Award - Susan Farris, FACHCA  
ACHCA Outstanding Member Award - Israel Ray, CNHA, FACHCA  
Distinguished Nursing Home Administrator Award - Marnie Talamona, FACHCA  
New Nursing Home Administrator Award- Kathryn 'Katie' Lasewicz  
AIT Preceptor Award - Kathy Pajor, FACHCA  
Public Service Award - Dan Cohen  
Education Award - Melanie Eaton, FACHCA  
Journalism Award - Kathleen Mears  
ACHCA Champion Award - Ethica Health and Retirement Communities  
Business Partner Award - Harmony Healthcare International

**CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

District 1  
Connecticut Chapter  
Georgia Chapter  
Indiana Chapter  
New Jersey Chapter  
Texas Chapter

**W. PHILLIP MCCONNELL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Emily Webber  
Ilana Weisberg

### **ELI PICK FACILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

This award, named in memory of visionary ACHCA member Eli Pick, recognizes administrators who provided leadership throughout the award year. Eligibility for this award is based on three years of skilled nursing facility (SNF) survey data, including the Health, Fire (Life Safety), and Complaint Surveys, as well as top quartile performance on designated Quality Measures. The criteria also included an 80% or greater facility occupancy and a three year avoidance of a Special Focus Facility status. A list of the 2016 recipients can be found [here](#).

Founded in 1962, the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) is the only professional association devoted solely to meeting the professional needs of today's post-acute and aging services leaders. Focused on advancing leadership excellence, ACHCA provides professional education and certification to administrators from across the spectrum of long term care. For more information about ACHCA, contact the national office at (202) 536-5120 or visit [www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org).

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