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Community Health Centers Recognized for Excellence Across Oregon
Individuals or Teams at Four Community Health Centers Recognized for Their Contributions

Portland, OR (September 28th)– The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2021-2022 Awards of Excellence.

Every year, individuals and teams are nominated by their peers for outstanding work achieved in support of underserved and marginalized patients and communities in Oregon. A full description of the work these recipients do to improve access to healthcare, and how they positively impact their community can be found on our [blog](#). Awardees were unveiled at OPCA's All Peer Group Gathering today.

More than 65% of patients seen in Community Health Centers (CHCs) identify as black, indigenous, or person of color (BIPOC) which is far greater than Oregon's general population comprised of less than a 28% BIPOC population, according to the 2021 census. CHCs work tirelessly toward health equity and innovations in healthcare delivery throughout communities across the state.

OPCA received 27 nominations and awarded six Annual Awards of Excellence honors and a Posthumous Award to:

Access and Sustainability Award
Amber Webb & Yesenia Olvera, Community Health Workers Team, Neighborhood Health Center

Amber Webb and Yesenia Campuzano, from the Community Health Worker Team at [Neighborhood Health Center](#) were nominated for the Access & Sustainability Award for Ensuring Oregon CHCs are able to support ongoing and evolving needs for their services and communities.

"Amber and Yesi help people to stay fed and housed during a really difficult time in their lives and this positively impacts the community that we all live in."

-Dr. Jenna Wilson-Crain, Neighborhood Health Center

CHC Advocacy Award
Antonio German, MD, Salud Medical Center- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Dr. Antonio German at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic's [Salud Medical Center](#) was nominated for the CHC Advocacy Award for outstanding efforts in advocacy on behalf of health centers and the patients they serve.

"Dr. Germann has been a strong and continuous advocate for healthcare, the Yakima Valley Farm Workers systems, and for our patients. His advocacy extends back prior to the Covid pandemic but has taken on increasingly important roles over the course of the last two years."

-Lori Kelley, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

CHC Value Award
Anirudh Padmala, Deputy Director and Strategy Officer, Multnomah County CHCs

Anirudh Padmala from Multnomah County CHCs was nominated for the CHC Value Award for extraordinary efforts in striving towards the achievement of the CHC value through data, measurement, and research.

"Anirudh's work and leadership in this arena truly demonstrates the value of Community Health Centers - by leveraging new tools and infrastructure, we have more information and data available to share both with external groups about the outcomes of FQHCs and are able to give staff more direct power and opportunities to engage with data."

-Adrienne Daniels, Multnomah County Health Department

**Health Equity and Social Justice Award
Maribel Renteria, Clinic Manager, Neighborhood Health Center**

Maribel Renteria, Clinic Manager for [Neighborhood Health Center](#) was nominated for the Health Equity and Social Justice Award as a tribute to her dedication and efforts to support the health of Oregon's agricultural workers.

"Maribel is a strong advocate for equitable access to care and looks for opportunities to collaborate with partners to ensure our community members can access care and connect to resources that lead to better health outcomes."

-Alynn Vienot-Hayes, Neighborhood Health Center

**Health Equity and Social Justice Award
Seth Alkire, MD, Lancaster Family Health Center- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic**

Dr. Seth Alkire at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic's [Lancaster Family Health Center](#) was nominated for the Health Equity and Social Justice Award for leading the cause to improve health equity for Oregonians and being grounded in the roots and mission of community health centers.

**Innovation and Leadership in Transformation Award
Christine Hicks, Director of Pharmacy, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**

Christine Hicks, Director of Pharmacy at [Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center](#), was nominated for the Innovation and Leadership in Transformation Award for leading the effort to establish CHCs as centers of excellence through innovative community partnerships, clinical, operational, and administrative practices.

"For more than 20 years Christine Hicks has led the Virginia Garcia pharmacy program with integrity and vision. She is single-handedly responsible for hiring most of the current leadership team and believes in leading by example – spending time in the pharmacies, working through issues as a team and looking ahead at new and innovative ways to ensure our patients have the access they need to medication by removing the barriers that often prevent them from being healthy."

-Kasi Woidyla, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

**Health Equity and Social Justice Award-Posthumous
Edgar Pizano, Front Desk Team Lead, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center**

Edgar Pizano, the former Front Desk Team Lead at [Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center](#), was nominated due to his dedication and commitment to health equity and social justice. The impact he made will be felt by many generations.

"As a community, we still feel the loss of Edgar. After a year, we are still grieving. And we still look to Edgar as a role model for advocating for health equity in our communities. We can think of no one that embodied the work and values of health equity and social justice more than Edgar Pizano."

-Sarah Deines, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

About Oregon's CHCs

Oregon's community health centers deliver integrated medical, dental and behavioral health services to many of the state's most vulnerable communities through over 270 locations statewide. Over 450,000 Oregonians receive their care at a community health center, including one in six people on the Oregon Health Plan. Over 50% of patients live below the poverty line, and 71% live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Over 75% of community health centers have clinic sites serving rural communities, 30% of Oregon's community health centers are federally recognized as Health Care for the Homeless locations, and 33% are designated as Migrant Health Centers. Find out more about [Oregon's CHCs here](#).

About OPCA:

OPCA is a non-profit membership association of Oregon's 34 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), including two FQHC Look-Alikes. The organization's mission is to lead the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all.

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