

OPCA Names Winners of Annual Awards of Excellence
Eight CHC Awardees Honored for Outstanding Work

Portland, OR – The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) is pleased to announce its 2018-2019 Awards of Excellence.

Each year OPCA takes pride in honoring the individuals and organizations of community health centers who do outstanding work to provide quality health and health care services for people experiencing poverty and marginalization in Oregon. This year, eight awardees from four community health centers were honored for their contributions. Awards will be presented at OPCA's Annual Meeting on May 17, 2019, at Mercy Corps in Portland.

"OPCA is delighted to be able to recognize the accomplishments of the award recipients, said Board President Ron Hjelm. "The selection committee is humbled every year by the challenging task of choosing award winners in each category because of the extraordinary work that is highlighted in the nominations we review. The community health centers are truly providing innovative, compassionate, and remarkable services in their communities throughout Oregon."

Serena Cruz, Executive Director of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation, will be awarded the CHC Advocacy award for her work creating a level playing field for all members of the community. Cruz leads a team of 10 who innovate on fundraising, advocacy, and equity. She has worked with staff and board members to take on affordable housing, health care for all, racial profiling, and immigration rights.

Denise Weiss, Quality Director at Rinehart Clinic, will be honored with the CHC Value award for fostering a clinic culture focused on improving patient care. Weiss has led numerous initiatives to improve diabetes care, patient wait times, the clinic phone system and intake/discharge process, and development of one of Tillamook County's Medication Assisted Treatment programs to treat opioid use disorder.

One Health Equity award will go to two awardees, the team of Angelica J Godinez Garcia, Promotora y Navegadora de Inscripción (Outreach & Enrollment Navigator), and Sara Todd, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, both of Rinehart Clinic. They will be recognized for their work championing quality health care for all in their community. Together, they are nurturing organizational change that addresses the ways systems of oppression and trauma present themselves in health care settings, and facilitating opportunities for the entire team learn to recognize their blind spots and identify opportunities for growth.

Heather Diaz, MD, Clinic Medical Director at Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic's Lancaster Family Health Center, will receive a Health Equity award for her work establishing programs to help the community's most vulnerable patients, including the Transgender Clinic, Centering Pregnancy and Centering Parenting Program, and Pediatric Obesity Class.

One of this year's Innovation and Leadership in Transformation awards features two awardees, the team of Ed Smith-Burns, Outreach Director, and Elise Travertini, School-Based Health Center Director, both of La Clinica. They were nominated for their contributions to expanding Jackson County children's access to medical, dental, and mental health care, including in schools where 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunches.

Fred Dolgin, Deputy Chief of Operations of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, will be honored with an Innovation and Leadership in Transformation award for his work strengthening clinical and administrative operations across the organization to improve patient care, increase efficiency, develop leaders, strengthen access, and support care teams.

For more details on award winners and their work, visit <https://www.orpca.org/about-us/annual-awards-of-excellence/2018-19-award-winners>.

About OPCA:

OPCA is a non-profit membership association of Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and those who support them. The organization's mission is to lead the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. For more on OPCA, visit www.orpca.org.

For more information: Rivkela Brodsky Schraner, 503.228.8852, rbrodsky@orpca.org