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FOUR RESIDENTS HONORED FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE FOR GRANITE STATERS

NEW HAMPSHIRE – MAY 31, 2023 – At Bi-State Primary Care Association’s annual Primary Care Conference at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont, four Granite Staters were nominated by their peers and selected by Bi-State’s Board of Directors to receive an award. Since the Bi-State Awards were established in 1996, Bi-State has recognized 205 individuals for their remarkable contributions towards improving access to primary and preventive health care services for underserved and rural populations in New Hampshire and Vermont. The video recording of the 2023 Awards Ceremony is available on [Bi-State’s YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdwCPG1yUEY) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdwCPG1yUEY>).

Bi-State’s Board of Director’s Chair Award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Bi-State’s mission to ensure access to health care for vulnerable populations in Vermont and New Hampshire. Palmer Jones, former Executive Vice President of the NH Medical Society, led the organization for 25 years through many initiatives that continue to positively impact access to primary care in New Hampshire. The NH Medical Society provided office space to house Bi-State’s newly formed Recruitment Center, which has brought nearly 600 health care professionals to New Hampshire and Vermont, many of whom practice in underserved communities.

The Outstanding Clinician Award honors primary care clinicians whose exemplary skills and service have made a significant impact on the health of underserved patients and the communities in which they serve. Whitney Goode, DMD, Chief Dental Officer at Greater Seacoast Community Health, has served as chief dental officer since 2007. She set up a ‘stand-by’ clinic for dental emergencies for anyone, even in communities the health center doesn’t serve. During the early parts of COVID, when the private practices were closed, Dr. Goode and her dental team stayed open for emergencies. Despite the loss of three dentists, the health center still cares for 3,500 dental patients with the help of per diem dentists. Dr. Goode has dedicated her career to the Community Health Center integrated model of care and expanding access to oral health care in her community.

The Public Service Award honors individuals whose position allows them to make extraordinary contributions to public health and primary care access. J. Scott Nichols, MBA, Senior Director at the Granite State Health Care Coalition, mentors and works with a dedicated team that is committed to their mission of providing the highest value to partners, regardless of the obstacles encountered. Mr. Nichols’ career experiences as a first responder, police officer, and in emergency management illustrate that there are many ways to make a positive difference in the world. He dedicates his spare time to volunteering for non-profit organizations.

The Hunt Blair Leadership Award recognizes the potential every individual has to improve the lives of many, as demonstrated by the brilliance, tenacity, and vision of Hunt Blair. Amanda Bennett, Finance

Director at Mid-State Health Center in Plymouth, joined Mid-State Health Center in 2016 and quickly established herself as an evolving leader with a steadfast commitment to ensuring the community receives the best possible care. Ms. Bennett assists the chief financial officer and leads the billing, quality improvement, and health information management teams. Amanda demonstrates her passion, tenacity, and professionalism in the ever-changing health care environment, finds innovative solutions to complex challenges, and honors the value of care.

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About Bi-State Primary Care Association

[Bi-State Primary Care Association](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents New Hampshire and Vermont's 28 Community Health Centers serving over 315,400 patients at 143 locations across every county in New Hampshire and Vermont. Bi-State works to promote access to quality affordable primary health care with an emphasis on reaching underserved populations. Bi-State was founded in 1986 as a 501©(3) charitable organization with offices in Bow, New Hampshire, and Montpelier, Vermont.