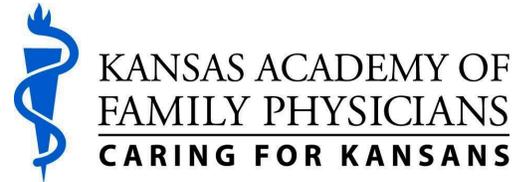


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Kansas Academy of Family Physicians awards honor exceptional members for their contributions to the health of Kansans

The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) has revealed the recipients of its 2024 KAFP Awards, which celebrate members who have made substantial contributions to family medicine and supported their patients and communities across the state. They are:

Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award (Full-Time): Faith Butler, MD, FAAFP, MBA

Dr. Faith Butler's 2015 addition to the Kansas City Department of Family Medicine and Community Health faculty brought an immediate and profound impact. From her early days as an Assistant Director in the Wescoe Society to her current role as a key expert in obstetrics education within the family medicine residency, Dr. Butler has consistently garnered praise for her compassionate approach, insightful feedback, and innovative teaching methods.

In 2023 Dr. Butler was awarded the Rolfe A Becker, MD and Sylvia Becker Mentoring Award which recognizes outstanding mentorship of learners (medical students, residents, and/or fellows) and in 2024 she received the Above and Beyond Award which is given to a professor who invested greatly in education outside of the lecture hall.

"Through the multiple roles of teacher, coach, advisor and mentor, Dr. Butler role-models what it is to be a knowledgeable, skillful, dutiful, and altruistic physician," said Giulia Bonaminio, MS, PhD Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education.

As a co-director of the Reproduction, Sexuality, and Development (RDS) Block, Dr. Butler's leadership has transformed the learning experience for students. Embracing the flipped-classroom model and incorporating interactive techniques like "Jeopardy," she ensures her lectures are engaging and relevant. Dr. Butler's innate ability to teach and her genuine love for the craft shine through in every interaction with students and colleagues alike.

Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award (Volunteer): Diane Steere, MD

Dr. Diane Steere stands as an exemplary figure in the fields of medical education and community service. Dr. Steere's journey, from her early days as a research chemist to her role as a clinician and mentor, reflects her dedication to the field of medicine. Her ability to balance clinical expertise with compassionate mentorship has earned her the admiration of colleagues and students alike.

Throughout her career Dr. Steere has not only excelled as a clinician but has demonstrated a profound devotion to teaching and mentoring. Dr. Steere's approachable demeanor and passion for teaching have left an indelible mark on the medical students she has guided along their educational journey. Her ability to instill confidence and foster a deep sense of responsibility in her students speaks volumes about her effectiveness as a mentor. "She is the type of physician that I want to be, regardless of what field I go into," shared one of Dr. Steere's students.

Beyond her role as a preceptor, Dr. Steere's contributions to the medical community extend to various leadership roles and community service initiatives. Her involvement in organizations including the KAFP and her advocacy on

behalf of patients and family physicians underscore her unwavering dedication to advancing the field of family medicine.

Humanitarian Award: Erin Corriveau, MD, MPH

Dr. Erin Corriveau is an exceptional family medicine physician with a deep dedication to public health and humanitarian efforts. Since joining the faculty at the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2015, Dr. Corriveau has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as the Associate Medical Director for the Wyandot County Department of Health and Environment. Her efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic were particularly noteworthy and she was instrumental in vaccinating over 141,000 community members, addressing vaccine hesitancy with patient education and communication.

In addition to her pandemic work, Dr. Corriveau has been a steadfast advocate for controlling infectious diseases. She serves as a deputy health officer and the tuberculosis physician with the Wyandotte County Public Health Department, where she helped establish the local Health Equity Task Force. Her efforts in TB control have been described as "tireless" and "crucial for the health of patients often neglected and left behind."

"Over the last year, she has overseen the tuberculosis program in Wyandotte County and has succeeded in controlling the worst multi-drug resistant TB outbreak in the United States," said K. Allen Greiner, MD, MPH, Nason Family Professor and Vice Chair for Community and Research Programs Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. "Many are unaware this has been going on, but without Dr. Corriveau it would have spread and caused much more disease."

Dr. Corriveau's work embodies the principles of compassionate, comprehensive care. Her contributions to public health, medical education, and community service make her a highly deserving candidate for the 2024 KAFP Humanitarian Award.

Family Physician of the Year: Jen Bacani McKenney, MD, FAAFP

Dr. Jen Bacani McKenney's tireless commitment to her patients and community in Fredonia, Kansas, exemplifies the very essence of what it means to be a family physician. Dr. McKenney's professional journey is characterized by a deep-seated passion for improving rural healthcare. Her compassionate approach and infectious positivity create an environment where patients feel valued and cared for, fostering trust and effective treatment outcomes.

"Jennifer's commitment to her patients and our community is second to none," said Destany Wheeler, Regional Public Health Specialist with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "Besides holding herself to the highest standard of patient care, Dr. Jen has recruited providers to her practice that are just as committed to excellence and to enhancing the quality of life for Fredonia residents."

Dr. McKenney has significantly contributed to public health on a broader scale. As Wilson County Health Officer, she played a crucial role in navigating her community through the COVID-19 pandemic, providing trusted leadership and clear guidance during an unprecedented crisis. Her involvement extends to the state and national levels, where she advocates for rural healthcare improvements and serves in various leadership roles, including as the KAFP President in 2022. In her role as Associate Dean for Rural Medical Education at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Dr. McKenney influences the next generation of physicians, instilling in them the values and skills necessary to thrive in rural medical practice.

Dr. McKenney's impact is not confined to clinical settings. She is also a proactive community leader, having established initiatives like the Fredonia Area Community Foundation and Cultivate Fredonia, which focus on community health and development. Her efforts to secure healthier living conditions and promote social determinants of health reflect her holistic approach to medicine. Dr. McKenney's recognition as Family Physician of the Year is well-deserved, honoring her remarkable contributions to patient care, public health advocacy, education, and community service.

“While her patients in rural Kansas receive excellent care, she is simultaneously working behind-the-scenes for public health and healthcare at the county, state, and national levels,” said Kyle Wells, MD, with Fredonia Family Care. “It is nearly impossible to grasp how many patient lives’ she has impacted through her efforts in practice, policy work, education, and public service.”

About the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

The KAFP represents nearly 2,000 physicians and medical students statewide. It is the only medical society in Kansas devoted solely to primary care and is the largest medical specialty organization in Kansas. A family physician takes care of the whole family, all ages and sexes, each organ system and every disease entity. Research has proven that people with access to primary care have better health outcomes than those who do not. In Kansas, approximately one half of family physicians practice in non-metropolitan areas. Over 25 percent treat uninsured patients, especially children and families receiving public assistance. The mission of the KAFP is to empower and cultivate Kansas family physicians to advocate and collaborate for the health of all Kansans. For more information visit the website at kafponline.org.