



The State Office of Rural Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Rural Health Center CEO Michelle Mills named NRHA Volunteer of the Year

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) annually recognizes its most active volunteer during its annual conference.

Denver, CO – May 18, 2018 – Last week, the National Rural Health Association named Colorado Rural Health Center CEO Michelle Mills as its Volunteer of the Year. The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 21,000 members whose mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

“I am truly humbled by this award. I have a passion for quality improvement and patient safety and I have dedicated my career to advocating for the people of rural Colorado,” said Mills.

Mills has been the CEO of the Colorado Rural Health Center since 2012. Michelle is a part of the NRHA Policy Congress, has authored policy and advocacy papers, and serves as the chair of the RHC constituency group. She also serves on the NRHA Board of Directors and the Finance Committee. Governor Hickenlooper appointed her to a three-year term on the eHealth Commission in 2016 and she is chair of the Commission.

“[Michelle] has been indispensable to NRHA as the chair of the Rural Health Clinic constituency group... Mills has assisted NRHA [with] many endeavors, including judging conference

submissions and award nominations, helping with conference sessions, and providing encouragement to NRHA staff. She is always willing to help when she is needed and to be an active and powerful voice for rural Americans,” said a National Rural Health Association statement on the award.

The work and mission of NRHA have overlapped with Mills’ priorities since joining CRHC long before her tenure as CEO.

“One of the first things that I wanted to do when I joined the [Colorado Rural Health] Center was to create a quality improvement program for our rural communities – one that was based on their needs but also connected to state and national priorities. I feel it’s so important for our rural communities to move not only from providing care for chronic disease but to move outside of their facility walls to address those social determinants of health by working with their communities. That’s when I was introduced to the NRHA and got involved,” said Mills in her award acceptance video.

“I am proud to be a part of NRHA and the positive change that we are making on behalf of all rural communities. I’m appreciative of my CRHC team and everything they do for rural Colorado and I’m thankful to my husband Scott and my daughter Ciera for putting up with my crazy schedule” said Mills.

To view Michelle’s acceptance video and to learn more about the Colorado Rural Health Center and the work of the National Rural Health Association, click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/NqB6xcZYGn4>



Colorado Rural Health Center CEO Michelle Mills poses with her Volunteer of the Year Award with National Rural Health Association CEO Alan Morgan.

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health and the State Rural Health Association. The organization's mission is to enhance healthcare services in the state by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural health issues. CRHC's vision is to improve healthcare services available in rural communities to ensure that all rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable, high quality healthcare. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.