



2022 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award
Laurie Francis, Retired Executive Director
Partnership Health Center, MT

Laurie Francis is a pioneer and visionary who has made and continues to make an immeasurable positive impact on the health and well-being of all Montanans. As a nurse in Livingston, Laurie saw the negative impacts financial barriers to accessing primary care had on individuals and families. She engaged with a broad group of stakeholders to form the group that applied for HRSA funding to create Community Health Partners in 1997, and acted as that organization's founding CEO. Her leadership infused the health center with a strong mission orientation, investment in people and staff development, and numerous innovative programs to address the causes of poor health.

Laurie next embarked upon a foray into the world of Primary Care Associations, first serving as the Executive Director of the Montana Primary Care Association, and then as the Senior Director of Clinical Operations and Quality with the Oregon Primary Care Association. These experiences added to her already prodigious skill of thinking big and working at the systems level, but eventually her deep and endearing commitment to direct health center leadership led Laurie back to Montana, this time to take up the position of Executive Director of one of Montana's largest CHCs, Partnership Health Center (PHC) in Missoula.

During her time at PHC, Laurie has continued to thoughtfully impact her community, focusing on five domains: Joy at Work, Barrier-Free Access, Innovations in Population Health, Operational Excellence, and Impeccable Quality. Her leadership, mission-driven goals, and ability to leverage partnerships have allowed PHC to thrive even through COVID, implementing a wide variety of community resilience initiatives and securing numerous clinical grants to ensure access to high-quality care. Laurie recognizes that exemplary service begins internally with a healthy and engaged workforce, and her efforts led PHC to win the Employer of Choice Award for the state of Montana in 2022.

Her unwillingness to accept the status quo has led Laurie on a relentless quest toward innovation; she is an inspirational leader and her uncanny ability to get things done leaves behind a track record of measurable progress.

*For her pioneering and long-term dedication to the
Community Health Center Movement, we are pleased to present
Laurie Francis with the CHAMPS Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award.*