



2022 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award
Michelle Scholtz, DDS, Chief Dental Officer
Horizon Health Care, SD

Dr. Michelle Scholtz joined the Horizon Health Care team in 2012 and, since that time, has provided oral health services that have positively impacted health outcomes for thousands of health center patients. She has served as the organization's Chief Dental Officer since 2013, becoming a respected leader in her field throughout South Dakota and its neighboring states.

Under the direction of Dr. Scholtz, Horizon has become a proven leader in delivering dental services, advancing care through partnerships, providing interprofessional training and mentorship, and staying actively involved in recruitment and retention efforts to increase access to care for the underserved. Michelle maintains relationships with several dental schools in neighboring states and hosts dental interns at Horizon's dental sites to provide a learning environment for dental students in South Dakota. She also developed a mentorship program to help new providers adapt to Horizon's dental program. She continually works with medical and dental providers to ensure the full integration of medical and dental services in the primary care setting through cross-orientation and ongoing collaboration.

Dr. Scholtz has been recognized for launching remote dental consultations, and has been an integral part of implementing tele-dentistry throughout Horizon's large service area, ensuring that patients in the most remote communities continue to have access to care, despite chronic recruitment and retention issues for dental providers. When needed, Michelle travels many miles to ensure patients receive services that cannot be delivered remotely.

To emphasize prevention and access, Dr. Scholtz focuses on multiple initiatives, from a community garden and healthy diet education to the Smiles for Miles program providing no-cost cleaning, sealants, and fluoride varnish, to involvement with a wide range of groups including the South Dakota Oral Health Coalition, University of Minnesota Dentistry alumni board, and National Network for Oral Health Access telehealth learning collaborative.

In recognition of her outstanding service and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of her patients and communities, we are pleased to present Dr. Michelle Scholtz with the CHAMPS Exceptional Clinical Leadership Award.