Northwest Health District employees gather to learn, celebrate and recognize peer achievement

Note: Photos and names of award winners can be found below news release. We apologize for any errors. Please contact Logan Boss at 706-295-6649 or logan.boss@dph.ga.gov with any corrections or other inadvertent errors or omissions.

Rome, GA: Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald spoke to over 300 employees of the 10-county Northwest Health District gathered in Rome Thursday, August 20, for leadership training, ongoing education and employee appreciation and recognition. Fitzgerald emphasized the department’s key objectives to inform, prevent and protect and discussed current state public health priorities and initiatives.

Some forty district and county employees were recognized and received awards for leadership, innovation and customer service. Award winners were nominated and selected by their peers. Awards were given in three categories: Outstanding Customer Service (for superior customer service within an employee’s discipline), Transcendence (for superior customer service outside of an employee’s discipline) and Outstanding Contribution for employees who created a new idea, practice, product or service having a positive impact on their particular discipline and public health in general.

Employees from Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Paulding, Polk and Walker counties as well as district staff participated in the daylong meeting. Employees were able to choose from and participate in a wide range of breakout sessions, including “Crucial Conversations,” “Using Epidemiology to Solve Community Health Puzzles,” “Customer Service Counts!,” “Interviewing for the ‘Fantastic Four’ Traits: Integrity, Motivation, Culture Fit and Skill Set,” and many more.

District Health Director Dr. Wade Sellers also addressed the
group. According to Sellers, “District Day was an exciting, fun and reinvigorating opportunity for Northwest Georgia public health professionals to join together to learn, grow and meet and talk with others in our organization. We were especially delighted to have Dr. Fitzgerald speak with us and pleased to recognize many of our employees in front of their peers.”

###

Please scroll down for names and photos of District Day award recipients.
2015 District Day Award Recipients

Outstanding Contribution Awards

Tracy Stroup

(l-r): Tim Allee (Northwest Health District), Nichole Crick (Northwest Health District), Tracy Stroup (Northwest Health District), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Shelly Lewis

(l-r): Tim Allee (Northwest Health District), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Shelly Lewis (Northwest Health District), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Clay Tracy

(l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Clay Tracy (Walker County Health Department), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Jill Van Dyke

(l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Jill Van Dyke (Catoosa County Health Department), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Risë Wood

(l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Risë Wood (Northwest Health District), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Melissa Hunter

(l-r): Nicholle Crick (Northwest Health District, Melissa Hunter (Northwest Health District), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
April Harkins

(l-r): Tim Allee (Northwest Health District), April Harkins (Gordon County Health Department), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Amy Carroll

(l-r): Amy Carroll (Catoosa County Health Department), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)
Transcendence Awards

Front row (l-r): Brett Smith (Northwest Health District), Vanessa Spivey (Floyd County Health Department)

Second row (l-r): Carie Warren (Northwest Health District), Joan Mueller (Paulding County Health Department), Sharon Bradford (Dade County Health Department)

Third row (l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Georgia Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner), Crystal Davidick (Northwest Health District), Nicholle Harrison (Northwest Health District)

Not pictured: Misti Gentry (Bartow County Health Department), Pam Mitchell (Bartow County Health Department), Julie Payne (Northwest Health District)
Outstanding Customer Service Awards

Front row (l-r): Stacy McCain (Bartow County Health Department), Michelle Hill (Bartow County Health Department), Jessica Rodriguez (Chattooga County Health Department), Paige Roberts (Haralson County Health Department), Danielle Underwood (Community Care)

Second row (l-r): Holly Benson (Paulding County Health Department), Yesenia Galvan (Gordon County Health Department), Maxine McAffee (Floyd County Health Department), Stacy Ely (Northwest Health District), La’Darius Madison (Paulding County Health Department)

Third row (l-r): Amy Portwood (Community Care), Janet Eberhart (Northwest Health District), Debbie Atchley (Dade County Health Department)

Back row (l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner), Luci Barber (Polk County Health Department), Lori Kay (Bartow County Health Department), Cynthia Goldston (Walker County Health Department)

Not pictured: Debbie Neighbors (Northwest Health District)
(l-r): Victor Abercrombie (Bartow County Health Department), Kim Ballew (Northwest Health District), Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Stacy Amsbaugh (Floyd County Health Department), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner), April Hathaway (Paulding County Health Department), Amber Smith (Northwest Health District).
(l-r): Dr. Wade Sellers (Northwest Health District Director), Cathy Green (Bartow County Health Department), Kim Cowart (Northwest Health District), Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (Georgia Department of Public Health Commissioner)

Not pictured: Misti Gentry (Bartow County Health Department), Debbie Neighbors (Northwest Health District), Jill Van Dyke Catoosa County Health Department)