



Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Huntington & Charleston, WV: Nominations are open for the Michael Prestera Award of Excellence through Friday, June 19, 2020. This prestigious award recognizes individuals whose contributions have resulted in reducing stigma or improving services or supports for persons with mental health and/or substance use problems in Cabell, Mason, Lincoln, Wayne, Kanawha, Clay, Boone or Putnam counties in West Virginia. This is the 24th year the award has been given. Criteria for nominees include a person who may have:

- Improved health care and the lives of individuals with mental health and/or substance use related difficulties;
- Promoted advancements in education and technology in mental health and/or substance use;
- Developed community networks and systems that ultimately improve the lives of individuals with substance use difficulties, severe mental illness and other mental health difficulties throughout the community.
- Worked to de-stigmatize mental illness or substance use.

Previous winners of the Michael Prestera Award of Excellence include Mildred Bateman, M.D. (1996), Joan E. Ross (1997), Betty Barrett (1998), William Dotson (1999), WV Delegate Margarett Leach (2000), Francie Roberts-Buchannon (2001), William Wright (2002), Maurice Cooley (2003), WV Senator Robert Plymale (2004), James Weiler (2005), WV Delegate Don Perdue (2006), Scott Finn (2006), Linda Pleasants (2007), Jack Clohan (2007), Debby Hibbard and Dr. Ron Duerring (2008), Frank Markun (2009), Karen Yost (2010), Dan Hedges (2011), WV Delegate Jim Morgan (2012), Bob Hansen (2013), Dave Forinash (2014), WV Governor Tomblin (2015), US Attorney Booth Goodwin (2016), US Senator Joe Manchin (2017), Christopher Dean (2018) and William Mullett (2019). This year's winner will be honored at the Prestera Annual Board of Director's meeting on Tuesday, July 28th, 2020.

To submit a nomination for this prestigious award, contact Elizabeth.Miller@prestera.org for a nomination form and return it to Karen.Yost@Prestera.org no later than Friday, June 19th, 2020. Nominations may also be faxed to 304-697-1251, or mailed to Karen Yost, MPA Nominations, Prestera Center, 5600 U.S. Rt. 60 East, Huntington, WV 25705

Prestera Center is "*Leading the Way*" and celebrating 53 years of quality behavioral health and addiction recovery services at over fifty different locations across nine counties in West Virginia. Each year Prestera Center's 700 staff members provide high quality care to over 20,000 adults, children and families, regardless of ability to pay. For more information on Prestera Center, visit online at www.prestera.org, like us on Facebook, or call toll free to (877) 399-7776.