



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **KHA Leadership Institute Graduates 30**

(Topeka, KS – Sept. 18, 2019) – The KHA Leadership Institute graduated its 18th class of 30 students on Sept. 5 at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show in Wichita, Kansas. Students were nominated by their hospital's CEO to be part of this select group. They represent the future leaders of Kansas hospitals.

Helping to build future health care leaders is important to the Kansas Hospital Association. “We are committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of hospital employees in Kansas,” said Tom Bell, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. The KHA Leadership Institute was established to help hospitals provide professional development opportunities that accentuate the personal skills and abilities needed to facilitate positive change and innovation in Kansas hospitals.

The 2019 Leadership Institute class was diverse. They represented a wide geographic distribution of hospitals from Goodland to Leavenworth and Independence to Lakin – there was representation from all parts of the state. Students had been working in health care for as little as two years to more than 20 years. Several students have been in management positions while others were new managers. Some students also supervisor other staff, from a few to more than 50 employees.

It is important to note that the students nominated to participate in this program were not selected because they needed to learn "management skills". They were nominated because their CEO recognized their potential to be future leaders and wanted to help cultivate that development. Each one of these students made a personal and professional commitment to expand their skills by attending all six courses of the Leadership Institute.

The curriculum was structured to enhance each student's leadership abilities. Course #1 focused on explaining the difference between leadership and management, identifying organizational values and creating a positive organizational climate. Course #2 focused on enhancing communication skills and examining ethics. Course #3 focused on team building - including how to lead a team and how to be part of a team and Course # 4 examined conflict

and how to effectively manage it. Courses #5 and #6 were at the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show. Students learned about the challenges facing health care in the future.

**KHA Leadership Institute**

**Class of 2019**

***(photo attached)***

Jewel Akpan, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Wichita  
Morgan Allison, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg  
Kelly Bachar, The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus, Great Bend  
Tiffany Bailey, Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital, Leavenworth  
Mandy Baker, Wichita County Health Center, Leoti  
Audrey Barron, LMH Health, Lawrence  
Marla Booher, Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Hutchinson  
Jennifer Brady, Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, Chanute  
Stacia Brown, Wamego Health Center, Wamego  
Shayla Cook, Clara Barton Hospital, Hoisington  
Travis Daise, MD, Goodland Regional Medical Center, Goodland  
Holli Dieckmann, Holton Community Hospital, Holton  
Marie Eklund, Manhattan Surgical Hospital, LLC, Manhattan  
John Fitzthum, HaysMed, The University of Kansas Health System, Hays  
Diana Gaddis, Atchison Hospital, Atchison  
Vickie Gibbs, Phillips County Health Systems, Phillipsburg  
Stephanie Higinbotham, Newton Medical Center, Newton  
Maggie Hunninghake, Hiawatha Community Hospital, Hiawatha  
Angie Johnson, Memorial Health System, Abilene  
Daniel Mather, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina  
Liz McDonald, Gove County Medical Center, Quinter  
Becky Mitchell, Labette Health, Independence  
Lacey Muir, Rooks County Health Center, Plainville  
Libbie Oakes, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha  
Cassandra Pucket, Minneola Healthcare, Minneola  
Paul Schiferl, Citizens Health, Colby  
Ashley Taylor, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Medicine Lodge  
Dustin Thacker, The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus, Larned  
Kimberly Webb, Kearny County Hospital, Lakin  
Ronnelle Worthley, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 220 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is: "Optimal Health for Kansans."