



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For further information:**

Cindy Samuelson

(785) 233-7436; (785) 249-1727

csamuelson@kha-net.org

### **KHA Distinguished Health Care Advocate Awarded to Jon Rolph**

(Oct. 25, 2021) Jon Rolph, president and CEO, Sasnak Management / Thrive Restaurant Group, is the 2021 Kansas Hospital Association Distinguished Health Care Advocate. Members of the Kansas Hospital Association will honor him during their virtual KHA Convention on Oct. 27.

This award recognizes individuals who provide an exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in the political or policy arena. This award provides members of KHA the opportunity to recognize those who work on behalf of hospitals from outside their ranks.

Wichita restaurateur and community leader Jon Rolph was chair of a COVID-19 regional effort to communicate essential data to regional and state leaders to help them navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The project, called Regional Report Outs, organized health care leaders in each six regions of the state to provide a weekly, local update on COVID-19 developments. Rolph was excellent at engaging and appreciating both Republicans and Democrats, while putting politics aside in this unprecedented time to save lives and navigate this pandemic.

Rolph recognized the importance of putting local information about the impact of the pandemic in the hands of city and county leaders as they weighed the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. The idea of the Regional Report Outs has created a new tool in pandemic response for the state. In Rolph's words:

"Health care is regional. When people need something, they want a solution closer to home. Knowing this information in real-time can help everyone better understand what's happening and even equip people to help when possible. We need people at all levels having these conversations, and this process will simply make that easier."

Rolph is an active member of the Wichita community and previously has been a board member for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Wichita Metro Board, Wichita Children's Home, and a chairman of Visioneering Wichita. He earned his bachelor's degree from Baylor University.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 251 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is Optimal Health for Kansans.

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