



MEDIA RELEASE

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Brian Williams, Labette Health, to Receive Visionary Award

(Aug. 28, 2023) – The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to award the 2023 Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award to Brian Williams, president and chief executive officer of Labette Health, Parsons. KHA established this award to recognize outstanding, innovative contribution to health care delivery, health care financing or other initiatives that improve the health and clinical outcomes in a community. This award is dedicated in honor of Donald Wilson who faithfully served as the KHA president and CEO from 1982 until his retirement in 2004. The Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award provides KHA members the opportunity to recognize individuals who have truly been an agent for change in their community and in the hospital industry.

Williams joined Labette Health in 2015. He has more than 20 years of experience leading physician and hospital organizations, as well as ten years of prior experience leading financial services organizations. He has been a change agent in his leadership position and has inspired his team to achieve numerous accomplishments within Labette County, not to mention his vision for health care in the region, state and county.

Throughout his tenure at Labette Health, Williams has brought together community stakeholders and leaders to evaluate the health care needs of the community. Most recently, a strategic emphasis was placed on addressing the needs of the population with chronic diabetes. Promoting health equity by ensuring more people have access to comprehensive care is at the core of this work. With the opening of Labette Health's Diabetes & Endocrinology Clinic in 2022, Southeast Kansans now have access to a certified diabetes specialist, a certified diabetes educator and a nutritionist, as well as access to Labette Health's medical-based fitness and aquatics center.

Besides bringing new and healthy programs to Southeast Kansas, Williams has been a steady fiscal steward who has significantly improved the financial standing of the hospital with new service lines and affiliations. He also has led the teams at Labette Health to improve patient satisfaction, employee satisfaction and quality ratings.

One of his most satisfying accomplishments involves the development and financing of a 17,000-square-foot, off-campus emergency department, observation unit and rural health clinic in Independence. This endeavor, which ensured access to local emergency room care, could be described as the precursor for the Rural Emergency Hospital model being considered by many rural communities around the country.

Members of the Kansas Hospital Association will recognize Williams with the Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award during the KHA Awards Ceremony on Sept. 7. The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 239 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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