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**Contact: Terrence Ates**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**(903) 343 - 5451**



**NOMINATIONS WELCOMED FOR W. T. “DOC” BALLARD AWARD**  
Tyler, Texas (April 30, 2024)

The Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health) announces that nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health. This 25th annual award will honor an individual or organization exemplifying the concept of public health distinguished by protecting and promoting the health of the community.

This award is NET Health’s highest accolade for outstanding service contributing significantly to the enhancement of Public Health. Previous recipients of this award are:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 2000 – Luther Yates                | 2012 – Harold Higgins                              |
| 2001 – Brenda Elrod                | 2013 – Kirk A. Calhoun, M.D.                       |
| 2002 – Richard J. “Dick” De Santo  | 2014 – Barbara Bass                                |
| 2003 – Susan Bennett, R.D.         | 2015 – Paul McGaha, D.O.                           |
| 2004 – David Knowles, M.D.         | 2016 – Thomas A. Lowery, M.D.                      |
| 2005 – Keith McCoy, Ph.D.          | 2017 – David L. Lakey, M.D.                        |
| 2006 – John English, M.D.          | 2018 – Jeffrey Levin, M.D.                         |
| 2007 – Bennie Webster, Ed.D.       | 2019 – Valerie Smith, M.D.                         |
| 2007 – Marvin Ellis                | 2020 – Jeffrey Levin, M.D.                         |
| 2008 – Robert Westbrook            | 2020 – Bruce Carter, M.D.                          |
| 2009 – Jonathan MacClements, M.D.  | 2021 – Nathaniel Moran                             |
| 2010 – Ben Bridges, M.D.           | 2021 – Don Warren                                  |
| 2010 – Reverend Ralph Caraway, Sr. | 2021 – UT Tyler School of Pharmacy                 |
| 2011 – Dave Berry                  | 2022 – Mark Scirto, Jay Brooks,<br>and David Coble |

As a charter member of the NET Health Board of Directors, “Doc” served as a key figure in the formation and establishment of the Health District. He continued his service as Chairman of the Board and was an active member of many professional organizations dedicated to improving the quality of Public Health. Both professionally and personally, “Doc” worked hard to help both the citizens of Northeast Texas and the entire state of Texas.

**The nominee does not need to be a Public Health professional.** Services provided by the nominee may be in the area of civic, cultural, health, welfare, or philanthropic endeavors.

Examples of the areas of public health service may include but are not limited to:

- Environmental Health/Food Safety
- Public Health Engineering
- Public Health Nursing
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition
- Water Hygiene
- Public Health Programs/Administration
- Preventive Health & Education

Judges for the selection of the award will include two members of the NET Health Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer of NET Health, one representative from the Texas Department of State Health Services Region 4/5N, one representative of the Smith County AgriLife Extension Office, and NET Health’s Director of the Environmental Health Department.

Nominations for this award may be made either by an individual or an organization. The following items are required for all nominations:

1. The nomination letter should include a description of why the nominee is deserving of this award. Descriptions should be specific and concise (250 words or less) and should demonstrate the nominee’s work to create a positive impact on the health of the public.
2. The nomination must be mailed to the below address:

NET Health  
Attention: W.T. “Doc” Ballard Award  
315 N. Broadway, Suite 404,  
Tyler, TX 75702.

3. A one-page biographical sketch (or vitae) of the nominee.
4. No more than 5 supporting documents (letters of support, journal, articles, etc.)
5. One 4” X 5” photograph of the nominee.

**All nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024.**

This year’s honoree will be announced at the NET Health Board meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Thank you for your interest and support of Public Health.

For more information, please contact George Roberts, NET Health CEO, at (903) 535 - 0036.

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