For Immediate Release: Nov. 6, 2012

Oklahoma Hospital Association Presents Awards to Outstanding Leaders; Hosts Annual Meeting

Health care professionals from throughout the state attended the Oklahoma Hospital Association’s (OHA’s) 92nd Annual Convention & Trade Show, held Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. In addition to the educational sessions and annual trade show, other convention highlights included the presentation of several awards to Oklahoma’s outstanding health care leaders.

During the convention, C. Bruce Lawrence, received the Association’s highest award, the W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his outstanding service to the health care industry.

Lawrence is the president and chief executive officer of INTEGRIS Health. Since joining INTEGRIS in 2001, he has served as president of INTEGRIS Baptist and INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Centers and executive vice president and chief operating officer of INTEGRIS Health.

A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Lawrence has been very involved in the activities of the Oklahoma Hospital Association. He served on the OHA board of trustees and was chairman of the board in 2011. He worked closely with the OHA staff during the passage of the Supplemental Hospital Offset Payment Program (SHOPP), also known as the Provider Fee. He has served on the OHA Council on Policy & Legislation and currently is its chairman.

The Oklahoma Hospital Association’s Advocacy in Action Award was presented to Shelly Dunham, chief executive officer, Okeene Municipal Hospital, where she has been employed more than 30 years. Prior to becoming CEO, she was administrator of Schallmo Assisted Living and Okeene Hospital Annex, formerly a long term care facility, both managed by Okeene Municipal Hospital. Dunham also served as surgery supervisor in the hospital for three years.
Dedicating her adult life to caring for and/or directing health care in the community, Dunham has been very involved in the activities of the Oklahoma Hospital Association. She has served on the OHA councils on rural health, policy & legislation and quality & patient safety. Currently, she is northwest region chairman of the OHA board and sits on the executive committee. Also active with the OHA-PAC, she was northwest area board representative in 2008 and vice president in 2011. She was the 2010-2012 Oklahoma Rural Health Association president and was named Rural Hospital Administrator of the Year in 2005.

In addition to being a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, she is the board chairman and previous chairman of claims committee for Cimarron Insurance Exchange RRG and involved with the Okeene Chamber of Commerce board.

Dunham was a licensed practical nurse for 17 years before receiving an associate’s degree in applied science from El Reno Jr. College in 1991. She is a registered nurse.

**B. Joe Gunn**, who has dedicated more than 50 years to the health care industry in Oklahoma, received the **OHA Award of Merit**, presented to an individual for long-term commitment to the health care industry. Currently, he is the interim CEO of Craig General Hospital in Vinita and a founding partner of Applied Healthcare Solutions.

Over the years, Gunn has served as CEO at Pawhuska Hospital, Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, Miami Baptist Hospital, City of Faith Hospital, Tulsa, and Presbyterian and Children’s Medical Center of North Texas, Plano. Many of these facilities were newly built during his tenure.

Gunn has been very involved in the activities of the Oklahoma Hospital Association. He served as board chairman in 1970 and has held spots on numerous councils and committees. In 2000, he received the W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award.

Gunn holds a bachelor’s degree in management from Oklahoma State University, a master’s degree in hospital administration from Washington University and doctorate in health care higher education from Nova Southeastern University.

**William Winfree** received the **David J. Falcone Award**, presented each year to a health administration student for outstanding achievement. The award was renamed in 1996 in honor of the late Dr. Falcone, who served from 1992-1996 as professor and chair of the Department of Health Administration and Policy for the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health.
Winfree is currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma, College of Public Health and will graduate with a master’s degree in health administration. During his tenure as a graduate student, Winfree has maintained a grade point average of 4.0 and excelled in all of his classes. He has held several health-related positions including jobs at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He has also worked as a graduate research assistant.

Winfree graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2011 with a bachelor’s of science degree in zoology and biomedical sciences with a minor in chemistry. His parents, Jana and Kersey Winfree, are both clinicians in the Oklahoma City area.

Established in 1919, the Oklahoma Hospital Association represents more than 130 hospitals and health care entities across the state of Oklahoma.