



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 24, 2013

Public Information Office

Contact: Sally Shutt, Public Information Director

Telephone: (910) 437-1921

E-mail: sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

Cumberland's Buck Wilson Named Health Director of the Year

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County Public Health Director Buck Wilson received the Health Director of the Year Award on Wednesday, Jan. 23, from the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors.

The association's press release (attached) says the award "is given to an individual for outstanding leadership in both public health in North Carolina and for leadership and involvement in local community and civic activities."

The association recognized Wilson, who has been the county's health director since 2009, for "his advocacy work with the NC General Assembly on key public health issues, as well as his work at the local level to create community partnerships aimed at increasing access to mental health and primary care services and preventing teen pregnancy." The staff and management team of the Cumberland County Department of Public Health nominated Wilson for the award.



PHOTO CAPTION –Representatives from the Cumberland County Department of Public Health attended the awards ceremony on Jan. 23. (Left to right) Dorothy McNeil, Patient Services Manager; Daniel Ortiz, Environmental Health Supervisor; Rodney Jenkins, Deputy Health Director; Buck Wilson, Health Director; Trisha Barfield, Assistant to Health Director; and Christopher Frank, Board of Health Chairman.

-See attached release from North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors -



NCALHD

North Carolina Association
of Local Health Directors

NEWS RELEASE

North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors

January 23, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Peg O'Connell

919-208-5226

NC Association of Local Health Directors Honors Members and Partner Organizations for Contributions to Improving Public Health

Raleigh—The North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors recently honored several organizations and members for their efforts to improve public health. The awards were given at the NCALHD annual meeting awards luncheon in Raleigh on January 23, 2013. The awards luncheon was held in conjunction with the State Health Director's meeting, also in Raleigh.

The Ham Stevens Award was presented to **Durham County Health Director Gayle Bridges Harris, MPH, RN**. This award is given to individuals who exemplify the qualities of a former health director and friend of public health, Ham Stevens, M.D. Dr. Stevens was largely responsible for bringing administrative health directors and medical health directors together to form the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD). He served as the association's first president and was a former health director for Buncombe and Duplin counties. Harris was recognized for her leadership within NCALHD and her 40 years of service to the Durham community as a nurse, community volunteer, civic leader and the county health director. Harris is also a recent past president of the North Carolina Public Health Association.

Recently retired legislator, **William A Current, Sr.**, was recognized with the association's **Public Health Legislator of the Year Award**. Current, who is a dentist by profession, was selected for his public health advocacy as a member of the North Carolina House and as the former chair of the Gaston County Board of Health. Current was an early advocate for fluoridating municipal water in the City of Gastonia and helped to create the Gaston County Public Health Dental Clinic. As a state legislator, Current chaired the Health and Human Services Committee and served on the Public Health Study Commission. Current was also a strong advocate for North Carolina's Smoke-Free Bar and Restaurant law. The Legislator of the Year Award is given to individuals that have made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of public health in the state.

The Health Director of the Year Award was presented to **Cumberland County Health Director Buck Wilson**. The North Carolina Health Director of the Year Award was sanctioned by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and is implemented through the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, an affiliate of the NCACC, and is given to an individual for outstanding leadership in both public health in North Carolina and for leadership and involvement in local community and civic activities. Wilson, who resides in

Fayetteville, was recognized for his advocacy work with the NC General Assembly on key public health issues, as well as his work at the local level to create community partnerships aimed at increasing access to mental health and primary care services and preventing teen pregnancy. Wilson was nominated by the staff and management team of the Cumberland County Health Department.

The 2013 **Public Health Partners Award** was given to **Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC)** in Burlington. This award was created to recognize organizations, businesses and professional associations that have made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of public health in North Carolina. ARMC was selected for its commitment to the prevention of poor health outcomes through promotion of health across the life-span and their long-term collaboration with the Alamance County Health Department. ARMC was recognized for its financial and manpower investments in the local community in education and outreach in rabies prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention support, emergency preparedness, women's health and a variety of Healthy Alamance initiatives.

About the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors

NCALHD is an affiliate of the NC Association of County Commissioners and is composed of county and regional health directors from across the state. NCALHD mission is to promote health, prevent disease, protect the environment in order to ensure the public's health in North Carolina through leadership, vision, advocacy, and commitment to the principles of public health practice in local communities and throughout the state.

###