

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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DOH EMPLOYEE RECEIVES PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

Rhonda White Receives 2013 Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health Award

TALLAHASSEE- Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Office of Performance and Quality Improvement Director, Rhonda White, has been awarded the 2013 Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health Award. The award has been administered by the University of South Florida's (USF) College of Public Health since April 1988 to candidates exemplifying excellence in public health.

"Rhonda is an impact player in Florida's public health system," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, Dr. John Armstrong. "Public health never sleeps, and tireless efforts by dedicated public servants like Rhonda keep Florida moving forward in health."

White currently serves as the Director of Performance and Quality Improvement with DOH. During her career in public health she has worked to transition Florida into the new System of Care for Tuberculosis, and administered the closing of the last TB sanatorium in the United States. She assumed leadership of the Division of Disease Control in 2012 and the Gadsden County Health Department in 2011. She served with various response teams, including the State Emergency Response team during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness to support all-hazards public health preparedness, the planning and mitigation response to the 2002 anthrax scare, and the implementation of Florida's smallpox vaccination program. White first joined the Florida Department of Health in 1987, when she led the Division of Health Statistics in the development of Florida Charts, a compilation of health indicators and outcomes now routinely used by the Department and its partners.

"Ms. White has served as a strategic leader across the entire public health and private medical communities," said M. Michael McHargue, DOH Emergency Coordination Officer. "Her ability to enlist health and medical partners, identify health and medical response needs, and simply get things done is a tribute to her dedication to the Florida Department of Health and a benefit to the state of Florida. Her energy and enthusiasm for the mission of preparedness and response is contagious and known by all who have had the privilege of working with her."

The award was presented in Tampa today at a ceremony that was a part of USF's National Public Health Week events.

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