



## HERO announces winners of 2020 Health and Well-Being Awards

*Annual HERO awards honor dedication and commitment to advancing health and well-being*

**WACONIA, MN (October 19, 2020)** — The Health Enhancement Research Organization ([HERO](#)) recognized excellence in the field of workplace health and well-being with the presentation of the 2020 [HERO Health and Well-Being Awards](#) during the recent virtual HERO Forum20.

Award recipients included: Dr. Pamela Hymel, MD (**Bill Whitmer Leadership Award**), Victor J. Strecher, PhD, MPH (**Mark Dundon Research Award**), Shane Jackson, MBA (**Jerry Noyce Executive Health Champion Award**), Patricia Benson, MEd (**Heart of HERO Award**), and Deborah Moon (**Healthy HERO Award**).

“As the field of workplace health and well-being continues to evolve, we need leaders working to advance the field, improve our understanding, and increase adoption of best practices and emerging practices in workplace health and well-being. This year’s award recipients have been champions in this cause for years,” said Karen Moseley, President, HERO. “Their work is evidence of the good that can happen when you bring collaboration to the workplace.”

### **About the winners:**

- **Bill Whitmer Leadership Award** Dr. Pamela Hymel has been with Disney for nearly 10 years, where she is responsible for developing global occupational health and wellness strategy, as well as managing domestic occupational medicine clinics and programs, guest first aid services and wellness programs. Dr. Hymel is one of the architects of Disney’s reopening approach for its theme parks and resorts, which includes enhanced health and safety measures, such as face coverings and physical distancing; increased cleaning and disinfecting across the parks; technology solutions such as mobile ordering and contactless payments to limit contact; cast member training and workplace safety protocols; and guest information and education so they can help do their part during their visit.
- **Mark Dundon Research Award** Vic Strecher is a professor at the University of Michigan’s Schools of Public Health and Medicine. An innovative teacher and researcher, in 1995 he founded the UM Center for Health Communications Research, studying the future of digitally tailored health communications when fewer than 15% of Americans had Internet access. He’s also an entrepreneur, founding HealthMedia, a digital health coaching company that was sold to Johnson & Johnson in 2010. More recently, Vic created Kumanu, a digital platform designed to help individuals and organizations live more purposefully.
- **Jerry Noyce Executive Health Champion Award** Shane Jackson is the primary guiding force for Jackson Healthcare’s mission *of improving the delivery of patient care and the lives*

*of everyone it touches.* Since becoming president of the company, he has consistently led the organization – comprised of 16 healthcare staffing, executive search and technology companies – to growth of more than double the industry average. He also champions the company’s LoveLifts community impact platform that focuses on improving access to healthcare and the wellbeing of young people. An advocate for the power of business leaders as a positive force for people and the community, Jackson is a speaker on the conference circuit and frequently writes on the topic of intentionally nurturing a values-based workplace culture, as chronicled in his book *Fostering Culture: A Leader’s Guide to Purposely Shaping Culture*.

- **Heart of HERO Award** From her early years in the industry to the seasoned professional today, Patricia Benson has positively impacted the lives of many. With a mission-focused vision, Patricia has immersed herself in campus, community and corporate environments to advance health promotion efforts and build cultures of health and wellbeing. In her current role, as an independent population health management consultant, Patricia brings a solid depth of understanding to each business endeavor and partnership. In her previous role as the Assistant Vice President, Health and Wellness at the University of Louisville (UofL), she directed the overall efforts of the award-winning employee wellness program, Get Healthy Now.
- **Healthy HERO Award**, sponsored by WorkPartners, a health and productivity solutions company and affiliate of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and UPMC Health Plan, recognizes individuals who have improved their overall health and well-being by making a significant lifestyle change. The 2019 Healthy HERO Award recipient is Deborah Moon, a breast cancer survivor with remarkable accomplishments who truly exemplifies what this award is all about. From Deborah, *“I continue to work out daily thanks to UPMC’s affiliation with the Active & Fit Direct program. I participate in many of the UPMC health initiatives, including the MyHealth Weight Race and Take a Healthy Step, and have utilized a UPMC Health Coach during the pandemic to keep me motivated. I encourage my friends and coworkers to find a sport or activity they enjoy and find friends who share the same interest or passion for keeping each other motivated!”*

To learn more, visit <https://hero-health.org/forum/awards/>.

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**About HERO** – Based in Waconia, MN, HERO (the Health Enhancement Research Organization) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 corporation that was established in 1997. HERO is dedicated to identifying and sharing best practices that improve the health and well-being of employees, their families and communities. To learn more, visit [www.hero-health.org](http://www.hero-health.org). Follow us on [Twitter](#) @heroehm, [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).