



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERO SELECTS JAMES RAMSEY AS RECIPIENT OF THE EXECUTIVE HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD

President of the University of Louisville honored for commitment to improving employee health and corporate performance

MINNEAPOLIS (Oct. 1, 2014)—HERO (the [Health Enhancement Research Organization](#)) announced today that James R. Ramsey, Ph.D., has been named the recipient of the [HERO Executive Health Champion Award](#). Ramsey is president of the University of Louisville.

The Executive Health Champion Award recognizes a person of senior leadership status who has made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of employee health management within their company. According to HERO, the award was developed to acknowledge the significant role leadership plays in establishing and maintaining a culture of health in the workplace.

“Corporate leaders who are engaged in, and supportive of, employee health improvement will realize lower health care trend and see better outcomes from their workplace wellness programs,” said Jerry Noyce, president and CEO of HERO. “Executive leaders who not only approve funding for employee health management programs, but who are visibly involved in and position workplace health as a long-term corporate value, are those who generate lasting results for their employees and their companies.”

President Ramsey is credited with driving year-over-year success for the University’s employee wellness program, called “Get Healthy Now,” which claims more than 4,000 participants and has been used as a model for a statewide strategic wellness initiative called “Get Healthy Kentucky.”

Under President Ramsey’s leadership, “Get Healthy Now” has helped the University reduce health care claims by \$4.3 million, with program participants realizing an average claims savings of \$1,300 per person (in 2012). Four years into the program, the University achieved a benefit-to-cost ratio, or return on investment, of 7.16:1.

President Ramsey has also used his leadership and influence to drive improvements and growth across the campus. For example, the University graduates nearly 1,000 more students each year (a 60 percent increase in its graduation rate), and has become one of America’s fastest-growing research universities, as measured by National Institutes of Health funding.

In addition to driving positive health and academic results for the University of Louisville, President Ramsey’s leadership has helped the University secure several awards and recognitions, including the Business First’s Healthiest Employer of Louisville Award, the American Heart Association Platinum Start! “Fit-Friendly employer,” and the Mayor’s Healthy Hometown Worksite Wellness Award.

###

About HERO – Based in Edina, Minn., HERO (the Health Enhancement Research Organization) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the creation and dissemination of employee health management research, education, policy, strategy, and leadership. HERO was established in 1996 as a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 corporation to create high quality employee health management (EHM) research, especially that dealing with the impact of modifiable health risks on health care costs. To learn more, visit www.the-hero.org. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

For more information:

Barbara Tabor, APR / barbara@taborpr.com / 651-450-1342