



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joseph Leonard to Receive Ernie Koch Striving for Excellence Award

Joseph Leonard of Flushing will be honored with the Ernie Koch Striving for Excellence Award during the House of Delegates Session at the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 23-25, 2018, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Ernie Koch Striving for Excellence Award is given to an individual who exemplifies the characteristics of commitment and responsibility to his or her local pharmacy association in facilitating that organization to achieve excellence. This award consists of a plaque presented to the local association member and \$500 contributed to the recipient's local association.

Leonard is currently the pharmacy manager and diabetes specialist at Walgreens pharmacy in Owosso. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Ferris State University (FSU) in 1971. Since 2002, he has been a member of the Genesee Health Plan Board of Directors, having served as Board secretary, Pharmacy Committee chair, Grants and Loans chair and a member of the Network Quality and Oversight Committee and Executive Operations Committee.

Beyond his work as a pharmacist, Leonard has dedicated his time to his local association, the Genesee County Pharmacists Association (GCPA). He has been a member since 2011 when GCPA was again granted official status after being inactive for nearly 20 years. Currently he is the chair of the GCPA Board of Directors and served as president of GCPA in 2017. He has also served his local community and association as a strong advocate for patients and the pharmacy profession. He has been a role model for young pharmacists as well as other GCPA Board members for ensuring the continued success of the local association and the profession as a whole. He provides advice and wisdom for young pharmacy professionals and is an invaluable resource for GCPA.

Leonard was also an active member of the Michigan Society of Community Pharmacists for 14 years, serving as president in 2011 and chair in 2012. He was granted the Bowl of Hygeia Award in 2013 for his contributions to the pharmacy profession and his involvement in community activities that work to elevate and advance the profession. He was awarded the Visionary Leadership Award from the Genesee Health Plan as well as the Eagle Award from the Universal Kidney Foundation. He received the Preceptor of the Year Award from FSU and continues to work as a preceptor of FSU pharmacy students as well as serving as adjunct faculty for the University. Leonard demonstrates daily the value of strong leaders and mentors in the pharmacy profession who work to ensure its strength for the future.

Michigan Pharmacists Association, representing the nearly 9,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in Michigan, strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org.

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