FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Axford Presented with Distinguished New Pharmacist Practitioner Award
for Exemplary Dedication to Association

Katie Axford of Rockford will receive the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Distinguished New Pharmacist Practitioner Award during the Association’s Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 23-25 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

This award, sponsored by Pharmacy Services Inc., is given to a Michigan pharmacist who has been licensed to practice for less than 10 years and has shown exceptional involvement and contributions to the pharmacy profession. This individual must have demonstrated their participation in local, state or national pharmacy associations, professional programs and/or community service.

Since graduating from Ferris State University College of Pharmacy with her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2010, Axford has quickly established herself as an emerging leader dedicated to working on advancement of the profession and its practitioners. After finishing at FSU, Axford went on to complete a two-year pharmacotherapy residency with Indiana University Health and Butler University. During her residency she also served as an adjunct assistant professor at Butler University. In 2012, she then went on to become an assistant professor in pharmacy practice at Ferris State University and in 2017 earned her associate professor designation. She also became the co-curriculum coordinator in student services.

Axford has also been immensely involved in MPA and the advancement of the profession overall. She has been involved in several committees and boards throughout the Association, including serving as a delegate for the MPA House of Delegates since 2013, a member of the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) Board of Directors member as well as the western regional representative to the MSHP Board. She was the Board liaison for the MSHP Publications Committee in 2017 and the MSHP Transitions of Care Task Force in 2018. She also stays involved locally as a member of the Western Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Most importantly, Axford stays committed to the education and development of future pharmacy practitioners. She focuses on the development of students through a professional development model that has shown great success for the students and faculty. At her practice site at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s in Grand Rapids, she precepts advanced pharmacy practice experience students and provides educational experiences for the medical and pharmacy residents. She also developed a direct patient care pharmacy practice experience. In addition, Axford led a mission trip to Guatemala over the last several years that provides healthcare services and provides personal and professional development for the students involved. She will continue to directly impact the future practitioners of the profession through her dedication to education and professional development.

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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