



Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

THERE TO CARE: STRONGER HOSPITALS FOR A HEALTHIER ARIZONA

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Bisbee Hospital CEO Receives National Award for Service to Rural Hospitals

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James J. Dickson, CEO of Copper Queen Community Hospital in Bisbee, is Arizona’s recipient of the American Hospital Association (AHA) 2009 *Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award*. Dickson—who was nominated by the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA)—was recognized recently by the AHA for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for hospitals throughout Arizona.

“Jim is nothing short of tenacious when it comes to advocating for rural healthcare,” said John Rivers, AzHHA’s president and CEO. “He is a passionate representative of rural hospitals and the people they serve. As the CEO of a border hospital, Jim is on the frontline of some of our nation’s most challenging healthcare issues. He is constantly looking for ways to address those challenges and to ensure Arizona’s Congressional and state leaders understand the hurdles providers encounter as they deliver healthcare in rural and border communities.”

The AHA created the *Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award* to recognize hospital leaders, like Dickson, who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect the vital role of hospitals in their respective communities. Additionally, the award recognizes leaders who have successfully broadened the base of community support for their hospitals and are dedicated patient advocates.

Dickson, who is a member of the AzHHA Board of Directors, has served as CEO of the 14-bed Copper Queen Community Hospital since 1998. Under his leadership the hospital has developed a model telemedicine program, essentially allowing area residents to receive treatment from medical specialists without traveling outside of the community. Additionally, Dickson has advocated in support of state and federal programs that ensure the financial

viability of Arizona's rural hospitals.

Dickson received the award on April 28 during the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, D.C.

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About the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

AzHHA represents 95 of the state's hospitals and health systems, providing leadership on issues affecting the delivery, quality, accessibility and cost effectiveness of healthcare in Arizona. For more information about AzHHA, visit www.azhha.org.

About the American Hospital Association

The AHA is a non-for-profit association of healthcare provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes 5,000 hospitals, healthcare systems, networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for healthcare leaders and is a source of information on healthcare issues and trends. For more information about the AHA, visit www.aha.org.

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