

HTNYS Trustee Leadership and Advocacy Award

Congratulations to the 2016 Award Recipients

Sharon L. Hanson

Erie County Medical Center Corporation (ECMCC), Williamsville



Described as the “consummate board member,” Sharon L. Hanson has served ECMCC through a variety of Board leadership roles over 20 years and has

deftly helped guide the hospital through an ever-changing and challenging healthcare environment. Her leadership and advocacy on behalf of ECMCC’s thousands of caregivers and diverse community of patients has had a profound impact on the organization’s day-to-day operations, its partnerships, and on the community it serves.

Currently, ECMCC’s Board Chair, Sharon has been involved in key milestones and significant developments at ECMCC over the past two decades—including its creation in 2003 as a public benefit corporation. Sharon was also instrumental in establishing a new healthcare model—Great Lakes Health (a consortium including ECMCC and Kaleida Health)—focusing on more collaboration and less competition. Earlier this year, she led the ECMCC Board’s successful advocacy efforts for a pivotal amendment that allows ECMCC to collaborate with Kaleida Health and the University at Buffalo to create and operate integrated healthcare delivery services in Western New York—helping to position ECMCC for sustainable service delivery for decades to come.

Sharon also worked with a collaborative team to lay out a strategic plan that resulted in significant growth, including development

of centers of excellence in orthopaedics, transplantation, and behavioral health; the addition of new services such as oncology and bariatrics; and an expanded emergency department. She drove efforts to launch the ECMCC Foundation’s mobile mammography coach to meet the needs of medically under-served women and reduce health disparities.

Sharon’s impact on healthcare in Western New York is broadened by her commitment to several other organizations. While on the board of Trocaire College, she helped establish a partnership with ECMCC to provide an employment path for matriculating nurses. She also helped create the Health Sciences Charter School by providing a curriculum for city students to prepare for future careers in healthcare. Sharon served on the Seneca Nation of Indians’ Healthcare Commission to design and improve healthcare policies and procedures that focused on diabetes, drug abuse, and obesity. As the Executive Director at Deaf Access Services of Western New York, she is forging partnerships to ensure better understanding of the healthcare needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Perceptive, empathetic, and compassionate, Sharon is regarded as a dedicated leader who is deeply attuned to the needs and desires of both the caregivers of ECMCC and their patients. Simply put, ECMCC is a better, more efficient, and patient-oriented hospital thanks to Sharon L. Hanson.