

IPEC COF Excellence in Interprofessional Education Collaboration Award (2026)

The annual IPEC COF Award is presented to a team of collaborators from health profession schools and programs who have creatively addressed a public health issue and made a lasting impact on community health.

2026 OVERALL WINNER

University of Toledo, Toledo, OH

CommunityCare Free Medical Clinics

Mitchell S. Howard, PharmD, MBA, BCACP, College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Toledo

Susan Batten, PhD, APRN-CNS, FNP-C, College of Health & Human Services, School of Nursing, University of Toledo

Richard Paat, MD, College of Medicine & Life Sciences, University of Toledo

HONORABLE MENTION: HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS & HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL

Interprofessional Training to Prepare Future Health and Related Service Providers for Working with Individuals with IDD Across the Lifespan

Joseph Buhain, EdD, MBA, RRT, CHSOS, CMSP, FAARC, NREMTB, Marieb College of Health & Human Service, Florida Gulf Coast University

Ellen Kroog Donald, PT, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Marieb College of Health & Human Service, Florida Gulf Coast University

April Felton, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University

Mary Katherine White, DNP, MSN, School of Nursing, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Lisa Alberts, DNP, PMHNP-BC, School of Nursing, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Sarah Fabrizi, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Shelby Gilbert, EdD, MPH, CPH, Department of Health Sciences, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Courtney Pledger, MMSc, PA-C, MPH, Physician Assistant Program, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Bethany Russell, PhD, LMHC, RPT, NCC, Department of Counseling, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Barbara Tymczynszyn, MA, C-HWC, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

Tammy Walker, MSW, LCSW, Department of Social Work, Marieb College of Health & Human Services, Florida Gulf Coast University

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HONORABLE MENTION: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Train New Trainers (TNT) Primary Care Fellowships - An Interprofessional Workforce Model Advancing Behavioral Health Equity and Care Delivery

Robert McCarron, DO, DFAPA, FAIHM, Department of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, School of Medicine, University of California, Irvine

Ariel Neikrug, PhD, Department of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, School of Medicine, University of California, Irvine

Theresa Nutt, MA, BSN, HNB-BC, NBC-HWC, Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, School of Medicine, University of California, Irvine

HONORABLE MENTION: PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Creighton University, Omaha, NE

The Interprofessional Practice Navigator (IP-Navigator): A Community-Driven Approach to Addressing Barriers to Psychiatric-Mental Health Care in an Urban Safety-Net Clinic

Sara Banzhaf, DNP, MSN, APRN-NP, PMHNP-BC, FNAP, College of Nursing, Creighton University

Angela Patterson, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FNAP, School of Pharmacy and Health Profession, Creighton University

Rebecca Davis, DNP, PHNA-BC, FNAP College of Nursing, Creighton University

HONORABLE MENTION: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION

Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Promoting Public Libraries with Heart: An Innovative Interprofessional and Community-based Team Model for High Blood Pressure Care

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD, Stony Brook Medicine Health Libraries Program (HeLP), Stony Brook University

Valerie Lewis, Suffolk Cooperative Library System

Jeremy Leiss, American Heart Association

HONORABLE MENTION: AT RISK AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Samford University, Birmingham, AL

Enhancing Dementia Knowledge, Awareness, and Sensitivity through Interprofessional Training

Patricia Jumbo-Lucioni, MD, PhD, McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University

Kristen Johnston, DNP, FNP-BC, COI, AE-C, Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing, Samford University

Gracie Berthiaume, Samford University