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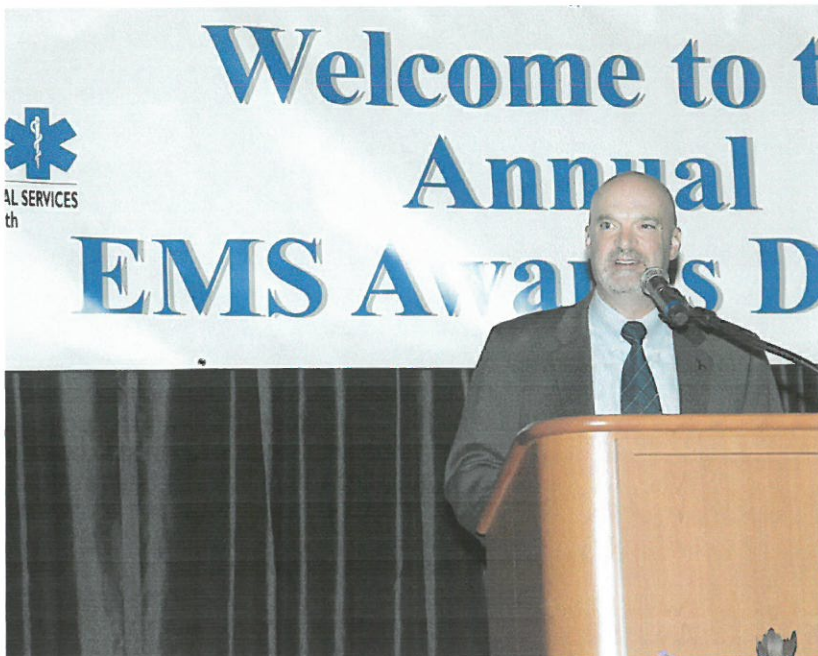
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Virtua EMS receive awards for service

By Kristina Scala, Staff writer Nov 27, 2015

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Scott Kasper, assistant vice president of Virtua Emergency Medical Services accepts the Outstanding Private EMS Agency of the Year award for the Evesham-based health system at the New Jersey EMS

Virtua's emergency medical services professionals were recently recognized for their statewide response to emergency calls at an annual state conference.

The Evesham-based health system, with hospitals in Evesham and Mount Holly, received five awards at the New Jersey Medical Services Council annual conference held in Atlantic City earlier this month.

Awards, which are distributed by the New Jersey Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services and the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council, were handed out to Virtua as well as individual paramedics and educators from the health care agency.

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According to Richard Miller, president and CEO of Virtua, this is the third consecutive year paramedics were honored with the paramedic and EMS educator of the year award and its victory in an emergency response simulation competition.

Scott Kasper, Virtua's EMS assistant vice president, said the awards are a reflection of the health system's overall commitment to the community.

"Virtua and Virtua EMS are committed to providing excellent, high-quality patient care to those in the community that we serve," Kasper said. "This is an example of how we do that in the communities."

Virtua EMS professionals received awards for outstanding paramedic of the year, outstanding EMS educator of the year, and the outstanding EMS safety award.

The area's nonprofit health care provider also received an award for outstanding private EMS agency of the year, and two of its paramedics won first place in the ALS Division of the New Jersey Simulation Games.

Outstanding EMS Safety Award

Virtua paramedic Rebecca "Becky" Scott, 28, of Tabernacle, lost a long battle with breast cancer before she could receive the award for outstanding EMS paramedic of the year, a recognition that's given to paramedics who have undertaken an EMS leadership role in patient care, public access, disaster preparedness, public education and training.

Scott ranked in the 90th percentile for skill competency and proficiency, according to Virtua officials. She worked her last shift 12 days before she died.

Her family accepted the honor at the annual conference on her behalf.

Outstanding EMS Educator of the Year

Deborah "Debbie" McClintock, of Williamstown, Virtua's EMT training program coordinator, received the outstanding EMS educator of the year award for her 25 years in the health care profession.

According to Virtua officials, McClintock helped to streamline its EMT program and took over a role in overseeing its review and education programs, which offers paramedics' continuing education to 30 plus basic life support squads in both Camden and Burlington counties.

Outstanding EMS Safety Award

Virtua's medical helicopter team, SouthSTAR, received the outstanding EMS safety award for its on-scene response and patient transfer from hospital to hospital. The dual-pilot team is equipped with safety avionics, night vision goggles and anti-collision technology.

First Place ALS Division-New Jersey Simulation Games

Paramedics Andrew Ecker and Steve Laramie came out on top in a clinical competition against other teams of EMTs and paramedics who compete in real-life emergency scenarios to test each team's ability under stressful conditions.

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