

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON

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VHHA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

THE OMNI HOMESTEAD RESORT

HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA

AGENDA

VHHA Awards Luncheon Agenda

Welcome and Awards Criteria	Mark Nantz Governance Committee, VHHA Board of Directors President and CEO, Valley Health
Remarks on Leadership and Service	Howard Gruverman Vice Chairman OnMed
Meritorious Service Award	Juhi Vora Warren Memorial Hospital Valley Health
Meritorious Service Award	Dr. Reid Adams UVA Health
Meritorious Service Award	Sean McMurray Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
Excellence in Governance Award	Scott Niswonger Ballad Health

Award Descriptions
VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

The VHHA Outstanding Service Awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia's hospitals and health systems, and to healthcare in general, by being selfless, energetic, and passionate. The Awards are presented in several categories.

Meritorious Service Award

The Meritorious Service Award honors a person, other than a CEO, affiliated with a VHHA member who has a history of making significant contributions to healthcare, on the state and local level, through a commitment to service and leadership.

Excellence in Governance Award

The Excellence in Governance Award recognizes a person who serves on the governing body of a member hospital or health system who has a history of making significant contributions to healthcare, on the state and local level, through a commitment to service and leadership.

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Vice Chairman
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AWARDEE



Juhi Vora, MA, CCC-SLP

Clinical Speech-Language Pathologist

Valley Health

Juhi Vora is a Speech-Language Pathologist IV at Valley Health-Warren Memorial Hospital whose decade-long career reflects a rare combination of clinical excellence, systemic leadership, and sustained community service.

Within Valley Health, Juhi leads the system-wide Speech Pathology Collaborative and serves as the rehabilitation representative on the Interdisciplinary Professional Practice Committee. She helped lead the development and implementation of key clinical initiatives at Warren Memorial Hospital, including a respiratory muscle strength training program that has since been documented in peer-reviewed publications for its measurable reduction in hospital readmissions among patients with COPD.

She is MBSImP certified and conducts Modified Barium Swallow Studies in collaboration with radiologists, and she is leading efforts to establish a FEES program in the Southern region hospitals. Juhi currently serves as President-Elect of the Speech Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV), following her terms as a Board Member at Large and on the SHAV Conference Committee.

At the national level, she holds a seat on the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA), the body responsible for accrediting graduate education programs in the field, and she serves on the editorial board of ASHA Perspectives for two Special Interest Groups. This level of involvement in shaping professional standards is uncommon for a clinician still maintaining a full patient caseload.

Juhi has authored or co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and national conference presentations on topics including dysphagia management, artificial intelligence in neurogenic disorder diagnosis, home health workforce and respiratory muscle training outcomes. Her work translates directly into clinical practice, giving other providers evidence-based tools to improve patient outcomes.

Since 2020, Juhi has led the Front Royal Stroke Support Group, providing stroke survivors and their families an ongoing space for connection and communication practice after formal therapy ends. She regularly participates in community health outreach events and consistently supervises and mentors graduate student clinicians and Clinical Fellows, helping prepare the next generation of speech-language pathologists.

Juhi treats leadership as an extension of patient care rather than a departure from it. Whether she is at the bedside, in a hospital committee meeting, on a state association board, or shaping national accreditation standards, she works to improve how care is delivered for patients well beyond her own caseload.

AWARDEE



Dr. Reid Adams, MD, FACS
Chief System Medical Officer
UVA Health

Dr. Reid Adams has devoted his career to improving health care through clinical excellence, disciplined management, patient safety leadership, education, and sustained service to the Commonwealth. His record reflects what this award honors: significant local and statewide contributions grounded in leadership and service.

At UVA Health, Dr. Adams has accepted progressively broader responsibilities for the quality and delivery of care. Before becoming Chief System Medical Officer in 2026, he served as Chief Medical Officer of UVA Medical Center from 2020 to 2026, Chief Medical Officer of the UVA Regional Network from 2018 to 2020, Chair of the Department of Surgery, and Chief of Surgical Oncology.

Across these roles, he has connected clinical practice with health system management, quality oversight, strategy, informatics, and professional accountability. His earlier work on electronic medical record implementation, clinical information technology, professional practice evaluation, and multidisciplinary cancer care further demonstrates a longstanding commitment to building reliable systems that support clinicians and improve patient care.

Dr. Adams' service to Virginia is equally distinguished. He served as President of both the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and the Virginia Surgical Society, represented the Commonwealth as an American College of Surgeons Governor, chaired the Commonwealth's Cancer Liaison Program and the Virginia Chapter's Cancer Committee, and served on the Virginia Cancer Plan Advisory Board and Virginia Cancer Registry Medical Advisory Committee. Through these roles, he advanced cancer care, surgical education, professional standards, and collaboration across institutions throughout Virginia.

His influence also extends nationally. Dr. Adams served as a Director of the American Board of Surgery, chaired its Complex General Surgical Oncology Board, and led the American College of Surgeons' Physician Competency and Health Workgroup. He has held presidential and senior leadership roles in major surgical organizations and contributed to national efforts involving certification, physician competency, interprofessional practice, surgical education, and responsible innovation. These responsibilities reflect the confidence that peers have placed in his judgment on complex management and policy matters affecting health care delivery.

What most distinguishes Dr. Adams is the consistency of his service. For decades, he has brought together physicians, nurses, trainees, researchers, and operational leaders to strengthen care. He has mentored generations of health professionals, advanced team-based practice, and pursued patient safety research focused on surgical systems, communication, checklists, and learning from error. His leadership is practical, collaborative, and anchored in the needs of patients and those who care for them.

AWARDEE



Sean McMurray
Executive Director
Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia

Over his 30-year career, Sean McMurray has strengthened healthcare delivery, improved access to essential services in Southwest Virginia and led complex organizations through meaningful change with the depth of a servant's heart. As a senior healthcare executive, he has developed a deep understanding of the issues affecting the health and quality of life of people across Southwest Virginia and the broader Appalachian Highlands.

Mr. McMurray served as chief executive officer of Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon from 2003 to 2016, helping guide its merger with Mountain States Health Alliance, the legacy health system to Ballad Health. He led the development of a new, $176 million 116-bed replacement hospital in Washington County which included Southwest Virginia's first interventional cardiac catheterization lab, along with a 29-bed emergency room, labor and delivery unit, operating room, medical office facilities and a comprehensive cancer center on a modern healthcare campus. Under his leadership, Johnston Memorial expanded access to specialty services including cardiology, neurology, oncology and orthopedics, established a medical residency program to train future physicians locally, and recruited 100 new providers, including specialists not commonly found in rural areas including endocrinology and nephrology.

Following the negotiation of a successful merger with Mountain States Health Alliance, and later Ballad Health, Sean continued his healthcare career as vice president for the health system's Northeast Market, managing all healthcare facilities and medical practices in Russell, Smyth and Washington counties. In that role, he worked closely with the medical staff, and hospital and service line leadership to align operations and help the health system adapt to meet the region's needs in Southwest Virginia.

In 2016, Sean and his wife, Kristin, were called to serve as missionaries with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for three years in Fort Collins, Colorado. Sean was responsible for overseeing mission operations across Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado while helping safeguard the health and well-being of 549 young people. Upon returning to the Appalachian Highlands in 2019, Sean rejoined Ballad Health, where he was named senior vice president of market operations and service line integration and development.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sean played a critical leadership role in ensuring the health system continued providing safe, high-quality care under extraordinary circumstances. He led efforts to secure and manage essential medical supplies, personal protective equipment and critical safety stock amid unprecedented nationwide shortages. Working closely with physicians, clinical leaders and frontline caregivers, he helped identify emerging needs, remove barriers to care and ensure clinicians had the resources necessary to practice medicine safely and effectively. His ability to anticipate challenges, build collaborative solutions and maintain operational readiness was instrumental in protecting patients, supporting caregivers, and sustaining healthcare delivery in Southwest Virginia throughout one of the most difficult periods in modern healthcare history.

AWARDEE



Scott Niswonger
Member, Board of Directors
Ballad Health

Scott Niswonger's impact on healthcare extends beyond facilities and infrastructure to the long-term health and vitality of the communities Ballad Health serves in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.

Throughout his career, he has championed educational opportunities that encourage local students to pursue college degrees, build meaningful careers and return to their hometowns to strengthen the workforce and civic life of the Appalachian Highlands.

His belief that healthy communities depend on educated, engaged citizens has influenced investments in workforce development and educational initiatives that help create a pipeline of future healthcare professionals, teachers, business leaders and community servants. Through both his governance and philanthropy, Mr. Niswonger has helped foster a culture of opportunity that enables future generations to live, work and give back in the region they call home.

His vision is perhaps most evident through the Ballad Health Niswonger Children's Network, which has become a national model for extending pediatric expertise into rural communities. Through telehealth connectivity linking community hospitals, physician offices and schools with pediatric subspecialists and neonatologists at Niswonger Children's Hospital, families in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee are able to access specialized care closer to home. The network connects rural hospitals with neonatal intensive care expertise and pediatric specialty services that might otherwise require extensive travel, ensuring children receive timely, high-quality care while remaining close to their families and support systems.

Mr. Niswonger has also supported innovative school-based telehealth programs that bring healthcare directly into classrooms throughout the region. These services allow students to be evaluated and treated without leaving school and often eliminate the need for parents to miss work or travel long distances for routine medical needs. By supporting these technologies and partnerships, he has helped remove barriers to care for working families while improving access to pediatric services in some of Southwest Virginia's most rural communities.

His commitment to access was also demonstrated through his support of efforts to reopen Lee County Community Hospital, restoring local healthcare services to an area that had experienced significant healthcare challenges. The reopening strengthened healthcare access in far Southwest Virginia while creating an important connection to the broader pediatric and maternal care resources of the Niswonger Children's Network. Through these connections, expectant mothers and high-risk infants can be linked more readily to specialized neonatal and pediatric services in Northeast Tennessee, helping ensure families receive the right level of care at the right time, regardless of where they live. Mr. Niswonger's leadership reflects the full meaning of service to healthcare governance.



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