

The University of Iowa and the College of Public Health have recognized alumni to receive Outstanding Alumni Awards. These awards recognize outstanding past accomplishments, promise for future successes and commitment to the college's mission, vision and goals.



Ummel Receives UI Distinguished Alumni Award

Stephen L. Ummel has been selected to receive a 2007 University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor presented by the UI Alumni Association. Widely known for his transformational leadership in the health care field, Ummel is receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service, an honor given to UI graduates or former students for specific and meritorious service to their university, community, state, or nation.

Ummel graduated in 1965 with an M.A. in hospital and health administration, and worked with former University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics director John W. Colloton during the 1970s to plan, fund, and systematically rebuild the University's clinical care system. Ummel then embarked upon an 18-year span as the president/CEO of three nationally known health systems, including Memorial in South Bend, Ind.; Memorial in Long Beach, Calif.; and Lutheran General/Advocate Health Care in the Chicago area. He has also contributed some 60 published articles to the health care literature and delivered countless keynote addresses, papers, and seminars. Ummel's consulting practice over the past 11 years, at the zenith of his professional career, has enabled him to sustain improvement through transformational service to hospitals, health systems, and academic medical centers. He is currently director of the Healthcare Advisory Practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago.

Ummel is a diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the American Hospital Association, which named him "CEO of the Year" in 1992. He maintains ties to The University of Iowa as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Health Management and Policy and serves as chair of the College of Public Health Board of Advisors.



O'Donnell Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

Randall O'Donnell, president and chief executive officer of Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. O'Donnell earned a Ph.D. in hospital and health administration in 1977. An internationally recognized leader in children's health care, he has served as CEO of Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics for 14 years. Children's Mercy is consistently ranked as one of the top children's hospitals in the nation and has received magnet designation for excellence in patient care. O'Donnell is recognized as one of the first leaders nationwide to advocate for the psychosocial needs of hospitalized children and their families. He is also known as a key leader in an advocacy effort that created legislation to fund the training of pediatric specialists at children's hospitals nationwide. He recently worked with Guangzhou Children's Hospital in China and lectured at the Sun Yat-sen University.



Prybil Receives Outstanding Alumni Award

Lawrence Prybil, professor of health management and senior advisor to the dean in the UI College of Public Health. Prybil earned a Ph.D. in hospital and health administration in 1970 and is widely recognized for his contributions as a health care leader and educator. His career in hospital leadership included senior executive roles at Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation in Farmington Hills, Mich., and Daughters of Charity National Health System in St. Louis, Mo., where his work helped to propel both systems to their current stature among the best health care systems in America. Prybil returned to the UI to join the College of Public Health in 1999. He serves on numerous boards and is widely published in the areas of health care ethics, hospital governance and organization. His honors include the 2004 Walter J. McNerney Award for Health System Improvement and the Edwin L. Crosby Senior Fellowship in 2006.