

**Wednesday, January 13, 2020**  
**Coles County Council on Aging (CCCoA) annual awardees announced**

These four individuals were awarded for their efforts and contributions to the Coles County Council on Aging (CCCoA). Evelyn Grubb - LifeSpan Center Volunteer of the Year Auto, Truck, and Farm Repair- Partner of the Year Award David Stanley - Donor of the Year Carolyn Cloyd - The Dee Braden Believe Award. Each year since 2018, an individual has been awarded The Dee Braden 'Believe Award.' The person chosen for the award has shown exemplary leadership and a source of inspiration and hope within our community. This year's recipient is Carolyn Cloyd, Executive Director of Coles County United Way. Her time, service, and dedication to the United Way and its mission continually make an impact in the lives of so many. Carolyn knowingly commits to her purpose of helping others by focusing on supporting civic engagement and community support while also preserving the history of Coles County and its residents. Carolyn goes above and beyond her professional commitments as the Executive Director by promoting the values and mission of the United Way and the organizations that benefit from it. She sets the example of assisting others selflessly. She holds dear the preservation of Coles County history throughout her involvement with the Coles County Historic Preservation Advisory Council, Run for the Fallen and other efforts to memorialize fallen veterans to honor all service members. Other community involvement includes the Kiwanis Club, Peace Meal and Coles County CASA. She does her best to share her passion and dedication to inspire others to do the same. The award is named after Dee Braden, the first Executive Director of the Coles County Council on Aging. She served on this board for 41 years and recently retired from her position as the Executive Director of the LifeSpan Center.



Submitted Photos  
 Carolyn Cloyd receives the Dee Braden Believe Award from Patricia Hicks, LifeSpan Center Executive Director.



Evelyn Grubb receives a certificate for CCCoA's Volunteer of the Year from Patricia Hicks, LifeSpan Center Executive Director.



Lacey Mullins (on behalf of Auto, Truck, and Farm Repair,) receives a certificate for CCCoA's Partner of the Year from Patricia Hicks, LifeSpan Center Executive Director.

**Golden Apple accepting applications for 2021 cohort of Accelerators**

**Accelerators Program Recruiting More Aspiring Educators to Address Illinois' Teacher Shortage Crisis**

Golden Apple, an Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, supporting, and mentoring aspiring teachers, is now accepting applicants for its Accelerator's class of 2021. The one-year teacher residency and licensure program, expedites the preparation of highly-qualified teachers in areas throughout the state that are most in need - notably southern, central, and western Illinois. Golden Apple launched the program last December to address Illinois' teacher shortage crisis and fill critical positions throughout our state, and this work is more critical now than ever before as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the growing teacher shortage with nearly 2,000 teacher vacancies across Illinois at the start of 2020. Accelerators targets and recruits career changers with bachelor's degrees and college seniors not enrolled in teacher preparation programs. Participants receive:



a \$25,000 to \$30,000 stipend for coursework or living expenses as they pursue a teaching license; courses at a partner university; and participate in a one-year residency and training program in a targeted partner school district. Golden Apple is striving to expand its 'Accelerators' program in 2021 by setting a goal to accept 150-200 participants, adding additional licensure pathways including Elementary and Early Childhood Education, and partnering with additional higher education partners and school districts across Illinois. "While school districts across Illinois have struggled to fill select teaching positions in recent years, unfortunately, COVID-19 has exacerbated the situation and led to widespread shortages," said Alicia Winckler, CEO of Golden Apple. "Golden Apple has a proven track record in preparing future educators. At this time, we are strengthening our commitment to grow to become a material solution to the teacher shortage. By doing the right work in a high quality way, we put Illinois children on a path to reach their full potential." In its inaugural year, 30 Accelerators were selected

from nearly 300 applications and began their training, virtually, in June of 2020. They will earn their teaching licenses by the summer of 2021. Participants were placed in 22 school districts throughout southern, central and western Illinois and will teach in that partner school district for at least four years. Over 50 percent of the class already had classroom experience, and all are pursuing teaching licenses in several high-need subject areas: Special Education, Science, Physical Education, Business, English Language Arts (ELA) and English as a Second Language (ESL). "Our inaugural class of Accelerators have already played a pivotal role in impacting the lives and futures of students adapting to remote learning and those adapting to hybrid learning models in schools across southern, central, and western Illinois, and now we're looking to the future to see how we can expand with our 2021 class," said Alan Mather, President of Golden Apple. "The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the growing teacher shortage which makes Golden Apple's work to resolve the shortage by expanding the state's pipeline of highly effective educators through inspiring, developing, and supporting teacher and school leader excellence in Illinois, especially in schools-of-need, more important than ever." The one-year residency and licensure program serves the dual purpose of providing immediate, additional teaching assistance to understaffed districts while better preparing the cohort of new teachers with highly qualified oversight. Once the 2021 class is selected and inducted, participants will begin pursuing their teacher license in the summer of 2021 with the goal to begin teaching in their own classrooms at the start of the 2022/2023 academic year. "EIU is pleased to continue our partnership with the Golden Apple Foundation for the second year of the Accelerators program," said Dr. David Glassman, EIU President. **See GOLDEN page 5**

**Horizon Health honored for quality performance at ICAHN Conference**



The Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN) recently recognized Horizon Health for its ongoing commitment to exceptional quality of care. The announcement was made during ICAHN's Annual Conference, November 17, via Zoom. Horizon Health and other critical access hospitals were asked to voluntarily participate in four quality outcomes as part of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program (MBQIP). These included patient safety/inpatient, patient engagement, care transitions, and outpatient measures. Horizon Health was honored for being a top performer in all four quality outcomes for demonstrating the most improvement over one year, and for its recent "5-Star" patient satisfaction rating. The ratings program, called the HCAHPS Summary Star Rating system, stands for Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems. Results can be evaluated comparatively to other area hospitals, state averages, or national averages at Medicare.gov. "We are very proud of our team for achieving this level of excellence in health quality," said Ollie Smith, Horizon Health president and CEO. "This is truly a team effort that recognizes our dedication to delivering a healthcare experience, of which our patients and staff can be proud." Laura Fischer, ICAHN Flex coordinator, added: "Often, in rural hospitals, having a devoted staff member to abstract and submit this data can be both time-consuming and burdensome. Horizon Health realizes how important quality of care and an engaged staff are for its patients." ICAHN is a network of 57 small rural Illinois hospitals dedicated to strengthening the operations of its member hospitals through collaboration. The organization is composed of Illinois hospitals that have earned critical access hospital designation by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



Thai Noodle & Sushi Hunan Fine Asian Cuisine Villa Pizza Luigi's Italian Restaurant Little Mexico