



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AWARDED NEWARK PROUD 2019 AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF LGBTQ COMMUNITY

University Hospital to be recognized at November 20th Award Ceremony

Newark, New Jersey – On November 20th, University Hospital will be recognized with a Newark PROUD Award. The Newark PROUD Awards are an annual recognition dedicated to honoring, highlighting, and celebrating achievement within and on behalf of the Greater Newark LGBTQ communities.

This is the 7th Annual Newark PROUD Award ceremony. Past recipients of the award include Tracey Africa Norman, Kimberlee Williams, Babs Siperstein, Jeremy Johnson, Tamara Fleming, Citi Medina, Bishop Carl Bean, Rev. Kevin Taylor, the Queer Newark Oral History Project, Gary Paul Wright, and Larry Lyons.

“We are honored to be recognized with a Newark PROUD Award. University Hospital prioritizes being an inclusive health care institution, committed to meeting the needs of all members of our community. This recognition is an honor that reflects our continuous and ongoing efforts,” said **Dr. Franklin Hickey, Chair of University Hospital’s LGBTQIA Committee.**

“University Hospital is a steadfast supporter of Newark Gay Pride, and our entire community of LGBTQ sisters and brothers. We are honored to receive this award, not only for supporting this community, but for prioritizing their health and wellness. We are committed to providing every patient with high-quality, respectful care,” said **Dr. Shereef Elnahal, President and CEO of University Hospital.**

The Newark PROUD Awards are co-hosted by Newark Pride and Urban&Out. Newark Pride is a volunteer organization committed to education and empowerment programming, and organizes its signature events, the Newark Gay Pride celebration every July. Urban&Out is a social impact organization dedicated to engaging and empowering LGBTQ professionals.

“Our community is rich with resources and our vision is for us to work together to build an even stronger Newark LGBTQ community,” said **Sharronda “Love” Wheeler, President of Newark Pride, Inc.** “We are the Village!”

“This year’s honorees, like those in the previous six years, really showcase the brilliance and excellence that so many individuals, organizations, and companies bring to improving and empowering the LGBTQ communities of Newark and surrounding areas. Every year I am excited to see nominations from the community and inspired by the work of our honorees,” said **Kenrick Ross, President of Urban&Out.**

Earlier this year, University Hospital was also recognized as a “Top Performer in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation in their 2019 Healthcare Equality Index. This is the second consecutive year that University Hospital was recognized in the index as a Top Performer. University Hospital earned top marks for prioritizing patient and employee non-discrimination policies and training.

University Hospital is also proud to be home to the Rutgers Center for Transgender Health, which successfully performed the first male to female and female to male gender reassignment surgeries in the state. This collaborative center offers a full spectrum of medical, psychiatric, and surgical care for transgender individuals, in order to provide a compassionate and coordinated approach to gender affirmation.

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About University Hospital

University Hospital is part of one of the nation's leading academic medical centers and is the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey. Located at University Heights in Newark, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.