



TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE
ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE
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**Tennessee Primary Care Association Honors Tennessee's Health Care Leaders with 2009
TPCA Awards of Excellence**
Upper East Tennessee Volunteer Awarded for Leadership

Knoxville, TN— Representatives from the Tennessee Primary Care Association presented four annual Awards of Excellence to health care leaders last week at their 33rd Annual Conference. Nora Lee, Chair of the ETSU College of Nursing Community Health Center, was awarded the Caryl E. Carpenter Award of Excellence as an individual, not employed by a health center, for her participation on the governing board.

This award, named in honor of Caryl E. Carpenter, Ph.D., recognizes outstanding achievement in expanding access to primary health care services. Dr. Carpenter administered rural community health centers in East Tennessee and served as the Association's first president, from 1976 to 1978. Her work with state policy makers contributed to the passage of the Primary Care Act of 1980, which improved access to care.

Nora Lee has been the Chair of the ETSU College of Nursing Community Health Center governing board for two years. She has guided, encouraged and influenced the board in its relationships with the many clinics under the college, and their respective relationships with the school system in Hancock County, the city of Johnson City, and the University itself.

"The structure of the Community Health Center is unique and complex and she handles these nuances with skill," said Ron Barwick, Executive Director of the ETSU College of Nursing Community Health Center.

She has been active in promoting the Community Health Center in the area at all levels, from the medical community, local church leaders to the city government. She has been active in the medical auxiliary, which has connections all through the community, and recently spearheaded a fundraiser for the college's Downtown Clinic that raised money for purchasing medications.

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Connecting Communities Who Care

Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 140 sites providing comprehensive medical care.