



**For Immediate Release**

June 12, 2014

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## **Susan Davis, EdD, RN, to Receive the 2014 T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award**

WALLINGFORD – At its 96th Annual Meeting on June 18, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Susan Davis, EdD, RN, with the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Davis is Board Member and Former President/CEO, St. Vincent's Health Services; President & CEO, Sacred Heart Health System (Florida); and Chairman of the Board, Connecticut Hospital Association.

Susan Davis introduced the patient safety concept of high reliability to St. Vincent's Medical Center and to hospitals across Connecticut, leaving an indelible mark on healthcare in Connecticut. High reliability organizations operate under high risk conditions but have decreased the probability of an accident by creating consistently reliable processes, making their systems measurably safer. St. Vincent's began the high reliability journey in 2010, and as Chairman of CHA's Committee on Patient Care Quality, Susan then led the rest of the state in an unprecedented initiative to address patient harm. Her vision engaged the CHA Board, and hospitals across the state committed to the high reliability journey.

"Susan is first and foremost a nurse, and the patient safety work she has led here in Connecticut is an extension of her mission of caring for patients," said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO, CHA. "Ensuring patient safety is the highest priority of Connecticut hospitals and, through her visionary leadership, Susan has helped us raise the bar on safety. We are proud to be involved in this meaningful work and grateful to Susan for initiating this journey."

Susan also had a major impact as CEO of St. Vincent's Medical Center. She set the standard for nursing care and led the hospital to Magnet status on its first attempt. When Quinnipiac University opened the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine, she developed a joint clinical partnership with the school – creating a third medical school in the state. As a result of that relationship, the first medical students will be coming to the hospital in the next year. Susan oversaw the \$160 million master facility plan and a \$60 million capital campaign. She led the building of the Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care, which represents the largest expansion project in St. Vincent's history, and the Michael J. Daly Center for Emergency and Trauma Care, which tripled the size of the emergency department, providing the community access to care that did not exist previously. She also led the expansion of urgent care centers throughout the Bridgeport area, and launched the most ambitious technology upgrade in the history of St. Vincent's.

In addition to her role as CHA Board Chairman, she served for eight years on the Board of Directors for the Bridgeport Regional Business Council (BRBC), including two terms as board chair. Susan has been recognized for her service to the United Way, Hospice, and the American Cancer Society in both Connecticut and New York.

CHA is pleased to recognize this exceptional leader, colleague, and friend.



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#### **About CHA**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.