

FOR RELEASE: June 1, 2012

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Bridgeport Hospital employees recognized for service milestones

Fairfield's Richard Dreyer named Employee of the Year

More than 400 employees attended Bridgeport Hospital's Joseph E. Janell Employee Recognition Dinner on May 24 at The Waterview in Monroe, most celebrating service milestones of five, 10, 15 or 20-plus years. One employee, Endoscopy Unit nurse Joan Smith of Stratford, marked her 55th year at the hospital.

Pulmonary technologist Richard Dreyer of Fairfield was named Employee of the Year for his outstanding job performance and service to patients and colleagues. Endoscopy Unit nurse Susan Maillard of Stratford received the George B. and Alice P. Longstreth Humanness Award for combining skillful clinical care with compassion and respect for her patients.

"Thank you for your dedication to our patients and each other," hospital President and CEO Bill Jennings told employees at the dinner.

"You are the moving parts that make the hospital work," Medical Staff President Peter Tortora, MD, added. "Everyone plays an important role. It's a great hospital and you're the people who make it possible."

You've worked hard to get here and you all deserve to celebrate," said hospital Board of Directors Chair Meredith Reuben. "Together, we applaud a great year at Bridgeport Hospital and look forward to a very hopeful future."

A hospital employee for 47 years, Dreyer was previously the June 2011 Employee of the Month. "Richard is helpful, kind and gentle," his nominators wrote. "He is sensitive to the needs of all his patients and provides excellent clinical care along with excellent customer service—a winning combination."

Maillard has been a hospital employee since 1991. She received the George B. and Alice P. Longstreth Award from physician assistant Lakin Shostak, granddaughter of the couple for whom the award is named. "Susan provides outstanding clinical care and makes her patients feel at ease," Shostak said. "She is a team player and an exceptional human being."

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EMPLOYEE DINNER...2-2-2

The hospital's annual Employee Recognition Dinner was renamed this year in honor of Joseph Janell, who retired as Senior Vice President, Human Resources in 2011 after more than 40 years with the hospital. Janell, along with several other retirees, attended the May 24 event at The Waterview.

Established in 1878, Bridgeport Hospital is a not-for-profit, acute care teaching hospital that serves nearly 20,000 inpatients and receives more than 200,000 outpatient visits each year, including more than 75,000 to its emergency department. The hospital has 383 licensed beds and an additional 42 pediatric beds under the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital license.

Bridgeport Hospital is the site of The Connecticut Burn Center, the only burn center in Connecticut. Other major services include the Joel E. Smilow Heart Institute, The Norma F. Pfriem Cancer Institute and The Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center, the Women's Care Center (offering comprehensive maternity and gynecological care), the Joint Reconstruction Center, Ahlbin Rehabilitation Centers, the Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Medicine, the Center for Sleep Medicine and the Center for Geriatrics.

Bridgeport Hospital is also a state-designated primary stroke center. Additional specialties include neurology and neurosurgery, psychiatry, pulmonary medicine, urology and vascular surgery. The hospital is also a leader in *da Vinci* robot-assisted minimally invasive surgery, having performed nearly 1,500 robotic procedures, more than any other hospital in Fairfield County.

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Bridgeport Hospital is a member of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), the largest and most comprehensive integrated health care delivery system in Connecticut. Yale New Haven Health System is recognized for advanced clinical care, quality, service, cost effectiveness and commitment to improving the health status of the populations it serves. Yale New Haven Health System's service area covers portions of eastern New York, the state of Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island. Yale New Haven Health System is committed to making the best health care easier to use.