

NEWS RELEASE

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Hospital CEO honored by Boy Scouts

Bridgeport, CT (June 17, 2014) – William M. Jennings, president and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital and executive vice president of Yale New Haven Health System, was one of four community leaders to receive a Good Scout Award June 12 from the Boy Scouts of America Connecticut Yankee Council for outstanding community leadership and exemplifying Scouting ideals. The award was presented during the 26th annual Greater Bridgeport Good Scout Award ceremony at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn.

“Whenever I interview anyone for a job, I ask, ‘What are your values and where did you get them?’” Jennings said at the award ceremony. “What I love to hear is that they got them from Scouting.”

Jennings was honored along with Fairfield Prep academic dean and diversity student recruiter Dr. Donna Andrade and entrepreneurs Ernest and Joan Trefz. They are among nearly 50 community leaders in Greater Bridgeport who have received the award since 1989.

“It is an honor for me to be recognized along with Dr. Andrade and Ernest and Joan Trefz,” Jennings added. “Their leadership and contributions to the community have benefitted the Greater Bridgeport region in many ways.”

Among the first people Bill thanked during his acceptance speech were his co-workers at Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Health System. “You are all brilliant,” he said. “Thank you for what you do for our patients every day.”

Active in Scouting since his youth, Jennings became an Eagle Scout in 1982 with the Tri-State Area Council of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, and has since served as a trained commissioner with several Boy Scout councils.

Jennings joined Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Health in 2010 from SSM St. Mary’s Health Center in St. Louis, where he was also president and CEO. Prior to that he was administrator and chief operating officer of Morton Plant North Bay Hospital, part of the BayCare Health System in Florida.

Jennings serves on the boards of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, Connecticut Hospital Association Diversified Network Services and Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. He also serves as American College of Healthcare Executives regent for Connecticut.

Jennings earned his bachelor of business administration degree from Miami University in Ohio and a master of health administration degree from Ohio State University. He lives with his wife Kristin and their two children in Fairfield.

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Part of Yale New Haven Health System, Bridgeport Hospital is a 383-bed acute care hospital (plus 42 beds licensed to Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital) serving parts of Fairfield and New Haven counties. The hospital admits more than 18,000 patients and receives more than 240,000 outpatient visits annually.

Photo caption: William Jennings (left) accepts his Good Scout Award from Eagle Scout Neil Patrick Harris.