

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care is seeking nominations for 2021 Missouri Rural Health Champions. Awards will be presented on November 18, 2021, during the Missouri Rural Health Day celebration. This award is designed to honor a minimum of one individual and one group, depending on the number and type of nominations received. The person or group honored should demonstrate how their contributions are making a difference in Missouri rural health care through collaboration, education, innovation and communication. The nomination deadline is September 7, 2021.

Are you nominating an individual or a group?

- Individual
- Group

Who is your nominee?

Nominee Name

Affiliated Organization

Nominator Information

Name

Organization

Nominee's affiliated organization type

- Hospital
- Rural Health Clinic
- Federally Qualified Health Center
- Outpatient Clinic
- State Government
- University
- Other, please specify

What rural community does your nominee serve?

Please describe your connection/affiliation to the nominee.

In 1,000 words or less, please describe why do you believe your nominee is the best individual for the 2021 Missouri Rural Health Champion Award? Please provide timeline of specific activities.

Kelly Cochran, PharmD, BCPS is an associate professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy at MU and an adjunct clinical assistant professor in the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Her area of teaching, research, and service revolves around the advancement of ambulatory care pharmacy practice with an emphasis on quality improvement and rural health. Growing up on a farm in Indiana, she recognized the opportunity to equip student pharmacists with skills to meet the healthcare needs of their rural community through a variety of programs.

Since 2013, she created a program called Pharm to Farm (<https://info.umkc.edu/pharmtofarm>) which provides onsite farmstead medication assessments to farmers with chronic conditions, disorders and disabilities who are involved in Missouri AgrAbility Project and Missouri Extension. Throughout this time the Pharm to Farm program has provided rural wellness screenings and agricultural health and safety education at regional Farm Safety and Health Days, as well as county fairs, Missouri State Fair, Western Farm Show, and Great Plains Growers Conference. She has mentored student pharmacists in the development of rural health and safety brochures and educational flyers for share with rural Missourians.

At regional rural venues over 836 individuals have been provided with education and 2325 individuals provided screenings and referrals, empowering them to be involved in their health. Regional newsletters have informed 24,000 individuals of Pharm to Farm services, health education information and resources. Regional workshops and community outreach presentations have informed over 248 individuals about medication safety topics, while webinars and conference presentations have shared with over 130 health and safety professionals.

Since 2016, she has conducted research examining Medication-related Agricultural Injuries Among Missouri Farmers. In 2017, She received additional training in Agricultural Health and Safety from University of Iowa Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, and continues to teach about medication related-farm injury in their course.

In 2019, she initiated an elective rural health and agrimedical course at UMKC School of Pharmacy, and the course enrollment has nearly tripled in enrollment in the last three years with interest among student pharmacists planning to return to care for rural Missourians.

In September 2019, she was part of a team that received a \$4.2 million HRSA grant titled "Innovative Model to Increase Primary Care Physicians for Rural and Underserved Missouri". Throughout this work she collaborated to develop Clinical Rural Immersion program which imbedded 25 medicine, pharmacy and nursing students within rural health sites in Sedalia and equipped them with experiences of rural life to serve as future rural healthcare professionals. This program will be replicated in Summer 2022 in West Plains, Missouri. Through another component of this work she is developing a Rural Preceptor ECHO to equip rural health preceptors with tools to foster team-based care, practice improvement and preceptor development in their rural health sites.

I can confirm that the nominee is making a difference in rural communities through collaboration, education, innovation and communication, and is working or volunteering in a designated rural area.

- Yes
- No

I can confirm that the nominee is a Missouri resident.

- Yes
- No

How did you hear about the 2021 Missouri Rural Health Champion Award?

MO Department of Health Facebook page