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Thursday, May 26, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [IHERF awards 60 health care career scholarships](#)
- [Council on Representation and Advocacy hears 2022 legislative updates](#)
- [Hospital Hero nomination deadline extended](#)
- [Dr. Callie Babcock named Loring Hospital CEO](#)

IHERF awards 60 health care career scholarships

The Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation, which is supported by IHA, awarded 60 students from Iowa with health care careers scholarships.

IHERF awards scholarships of up to \$7,000 (\$3,500 per year for up to two years) and \$1,000 specific to emergency technology/technician certification programs. Scholarship recipients are from each IHA geographic district.

IHA established the IHERF Health Care Careers Scholarship Program in 2004 to help address the shortage of health care professionals and encourage young Iowans to establish or continue their careers with Iowa hospitals. The first scholarships were awarded in 2005 and now more than 685 students have benefited from the program.

In exchange for financial support, students agree to work one year in an Iowa hospital for each year they receive an award. In this way, the scholarship program helps stabilize and enhance Iowa's hospital workforce.

Council on Representation and Advocacy hears 2022 legislative updates

The IHA advocacy team presented a summary of the 2022 legislative session at the Council on Representation and Advocacy meeting Wednesday, May 25.

Thanks to the advocacy efforts of IHA and Iowa hospital supporters, the state legislature passed several bills aimed at easing the health care workforce shortage including expansion of the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program and the Health Care Loan Repayment Program. Bills expanding the mental health loan repayment program and last-dollar scholarships were passed but not yet signed by the governor.

The advocacy team reported on several attempts to remove the certificate-of-need process that were unsuccessful thanks to the grassroots advocacy of Iowa hospitals. IHA will share a 2022 Legislative Summary after Gov. Reynolds has signed the bills into law.

Members also received updates about IHA's federal legislative priorities. IHA brought

several issues to Iowa's congressional delegation including:

- Extending the Medicare sequester relief until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency or Dec. 31, 2022, whichever is later.
- Protecting the 340B drug savings program.
- Ensuring certain critical 1135 waivers are made permanent.

Members voted and approved to send a letter to Iowa's members of Congress asking them to continue supporting hospitals when making decisions about funding for health care programs for fiscal year 2023.

Other issues discussed included:

- **The IHA Medicaid Task Force.** The taskforce was created to develop and implement resolution plans and engage partners across the Medicaid system.
- **The [IHA PAC](#).** In 2021, the IHA PAC raised \$115,649 with participation from 93 hospitals and 409 individuals. Nineteen hospitals met or exceeded their goals and four health systems contributed. The 2022 IHA PAC will officially launch Wednesday, June 8, at the [IHA Golf Tee Off Classic](#).
- **Pharmacy-related legislation.** Brett Barker of the Iowa Pharmacy Association provided updates about the pharmacy benefits manager reform bill and a 340B drug pricing program bill.
- **Possible 2023 legislative priorities** including tort reform, cybersecurity, workforce, maternal health and pharmacy issues.

Hospital Hero nomination deadline extended

The nominating period for IHA's [Hospital Heroes Award](#) has been extended to Wednesday, June 15. The Hospital Heroes Award is presented to hospital employees who acted courageously in a moment's crisis or who selflessly served their hospitals and communities through their careers.

IHA will recognize 10 hospital employees at the 2022 Annual Meeting who embody the passion and purpose of the community hospital mission every day.

Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

Dr. Callie Babcock named Loring Hospital CEO

UnityPoint Health announced [Callie Babcock, D.N.P., as the new CEO](#) for [Loring Hospital](#), Sac City, starting July 18. Dr. Babcock is the nursing services director for the North Central Correctional Facility. She has worked in several nursing leadership roles including as an emergency room and charge nurse at Loring Hospital. Dr. Babcock received her doctor of nursing practice degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Iowa's recent COVID-19 surge slows](#)
- [Avera studies impact of virtual health care in schools without nurses](#)
- [What's next for COVID-19 vaccines, boosters?](#)

National news

- [Where deaths rose during the pandemic](#)
- [Physician compensation rebounded slightly in 2021, study shows](#)
- [Long-COVID-19 symptoms can last more than a year, study finds](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Online education

- [Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program](#): Thursday, June 2
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Thursday, June 14
- [Emergency Preparedness Regulatory Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, June 28
- [Workplace Violence Program Workshop](#): Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18

In-person meetings

- [IHA Tee Off Golf Classic](#): Wednesday, June 8
- [IHA Summer Leadership Forum](#): Thursday, June 9
- [Behavioral Health Affiliate of Iowa Conference](#): Thursday, June 16
- [Iowa Alliance in Home Care Summer Conference](#): Thursday, June 23

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

HospitalCareers.com



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