



Idaho Rural Health Association  
**Idaho Rural Health Heroes**

**Awards Celebration**

November 18, 2021

5:30 - 7:30 PM

**ZOOM meeting**

Anywhere, Idaho





## **Congratulations 2021 Idaho Rural Health Heroes**

Cynthia Bunde, PA-C - Pocatello Free Clinic, Pocatello ID

Chancey Buttars, FNP - Franklin County Medical Center, Preston ID

Rebecca Katzman, MD and Clearwater Valley Health Clinic & Hospital staff -  
Orofino ID

Lance Hansen, MD - Bear Lake Family Medicine and OB/GYN, Montpelier ID

Ann Lima, MD - Clearwater Valley Health, Orofino ID

Russell Spearman, MEd - ISU Institute of Rural Health, Meridian ID

Sandra Woolstenhulme, DNP-FNP - Teton Valley Health Cache Clinic,  
Driggs ID

Read their stories at [www.idahorha.org](http://www.idahorha.org)

# National Rural Health Day



Governor Brad Little has proclaimed November 18, 2021 to be National Rural Health Day in Idaho.

To celebrate, the Idaho Rural Health Association honors rural people, providers, advocates and communities across Idaho. Nominations for the annual Idaho Rural Health Heroes Awards point to examples of service and dedication to those who call rural Idaho home.

This year's nominations came from all corners of Idaho, representing the rich variety of programs and people who work in rural health care. This awards booklet introduces the 2021 Idaho Rural Health Heroes - please join us in celebrating their achievements.

The Idaho Rural Health Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides a voice on rural health issues through advocacy, communication, education and collaboration. It offers a forum for health professionals, community members and healthcare organizations to work together to identify and find solutions to rural health problems.



*"Working in rural health gives the opportunity to care for people you know and care about. We all got into health care because we want to help—who better than our neighbors, family and friends."*

*- Chancey Buttars*

### **Chancey Buttars, Franklin County Medical Center**

Chancey Buttars is the Materials Manager for Franklin County Medical Center, but his work does not end there. He also chairs The Hospital Cooperative's Materials Management Group, where he helps other area facilities find the supplies they need to do their important jobs.

Under Chancey's guidance, the Materials Management peer group has met virtually more than a dozen times during the pandemic to discuss shared concerns, supply chain problems, and innovative ways to combat the unforeseen issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chancey demonstrates leadership and dedication to his own critical access hospital in Preston, Idaho and to others in the area. A joy to work with, he truly embodies what it means to be an Idaho Rural Health Hero.

*"The most rewarding thing I've found about working in rural health is becoming a trusted part of my patients' lives and the gratification of making them feel valued."*

*- Cindy Bunde*



### **Cynthia Bunde, Pocatello Free Clinic**

Cynthia Bunde is a Physician Assistant who started volunteering at the Pocatello Free Clinic in the mid-1990s, before she had even decided she wanted to provide medical treatment as a career. Since then, her focus has been on the underserved and low-income populations in the region, including those from rural areas.

Her experience is in psychiatry, OB/GYN and family practice. While working in a clinic or hospital would be more lucrative for Cindy, her heart has always been with serving those who need help the most. She also volunteers to read with children, raise money for homeless programs, and rake leaves for the elderly.

Cynthia is also a clinical assistant professor at Idaho State University in the Physician Assistant Program.



*"What I find most rewarding about rural medicine is the opportunity to practice full-spectrum family medicine, while developing meaningful relationships with people that transect many aspects of life."*

*- Lance Hansen*

### **Lance Hansen, Bear Lake Family Medicine & OB/GYN**

Lance Hansen is a Family Physician at Bear Lake Family Medicine and OB/GYN in Montpelier, Idaho. He grew up on a potato farm near Blackfoot and attended medical school in Idaho through the Idaho WWAMI/University of Washington School of Medicine.

With a passion for rural medicine, he provides full-scope family medicine, including c-sections and ICU care at Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, where he also serves as Chief of Staff.

He is active in training the next generation of rural family physicians, teaching and mentoring medical students, and leading the admissions committee for Idaho WWAMI.

Dr. Hansen is an Idaho gem. A proud husband and father, community leader and healthcare advocate, his life's work has made a huge impact on the health and lives of many Idahoans.

"Our goal is to expand support to persons with traumatic brain injury in Idaho. The state's rurality and lack of access to health care and other resources place Idahoans at a higher risk for TBI compared to other populations."

-Russ Spearman



### **Russell Spearman, ISU Institute of Rural Health**

Russell Spearman is a Senior Research Associate at the ISU Institute of Rural Health in Meridian. He has been dedicated to the prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injuries throughout Idaho for more than 20 years.

His focus has been on priority populations, such as rural, veteran, aging, those experiencing housing instability or domestic violence, athletes, and the uninsured or underinsured. In 2013, Russ received the Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program Award from HRSA for his work with TBI survivors and their families.

Russ collaborates with statewide coalitions and partners, and consistently involves junior faculty and students in his work, creating many opportunities for others in this area.





*"Working in rural health is rewarding because of the connection that comes about through shared experiences that are not limited to patient-provider interactions, but reflect the dynamic of rural communities."*

*- Sandra Woolstenhulme*

### **Sandra Woolstenhulme, Teton Valley Health**

Sandra Woolstenhulme has been a dedicated rural Nurse Practitioner in the Driggs area for decades. The Teton Valley Health Cache Clinic does not accept insurance, charges flat rates and does not surprise patients with unexpected fees.

A graduate of ISU's School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner program, she has been instrumental in developing this innovative "retail clinic." A long-time and trusted member of the community she serves, Dr. Woolstenhulme is helping to fill the statewide shortage of primary care clinicians providing care in rural communities.

She is passionate about her work and determined to make a difference in our healthcare system while advocating for all people who need care.



*"I have the chance to see patients and community members in all aspects of their lives—including the hospital or clinic, but also in their jobs, out on the trail and with their family members.*

*- Ann Lima*



### **Ann Lima, Clearwater Valley Health**

A family physician at Clearwater Health, Dr. Ann Lima was nominated for her contributions as a preceptor for Idaho WWAMI medical students – and also for her participant and panelist for the University of Idaho's ECHO Idaho program.

While teaching undoubtedly adds to her workload, Dr. Lima goes out of her way to ensure that each student has a rewarding and meaningful educational experience. In addition, she joined the ECHO Covid-19 specialist panel to ensure other clinicians had timely access to dependable, evidence-based information.

She also demonstrates her dedication to patients by making home visits and participates in health outreach programs like Walk with a Doc to promote community health.



*"These last couple years have given us the opportunity to grow and innovate—setting up telemedicine for many of our patients."*

*-Rebecca Katzman*



## **Clearwater Valley Health, Orofino Clinic & Hospital**

Dr. Rebecca Katzman and all the Physicians and Staff at the Clearwater Valley Health/Orofino Clinic and Hospital were nominated for their commitment to providing clinical rotations to WWAMI medical students and other healthcare learners.

Educating the next generation of healthcare providers is part of their mission, and many students have been inspired by how these rural health heroes practice high-quality and evidence-based medicine in a resource-limited, underserved area of Idaho.

Orofino is truly a center of excellence for healthcare education, and the entire team of the clinic and hospital work together to provide a top-notch educational experience for learners. These exceptional clinical sites are vital to solving rural workforce challenges.

# Membership Matters

*The Idaho Rural Health Association provides a voice  
on rural health issues through advocacy,  
communication, education and collaboration.*

## **Thank you to our organization members:**

Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot  
ECHO Idaho, University of Idaho  
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians  
Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing  
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Idaho Bureau of EMS and Emergency Preparedness  
Idaho Bureau of Rural Health and Primary Care  
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Idaho Health Data Exchange  
Idaho Hospital Association  
Institute of Rural Health, Idaho State University  
Minidoka Medical Center in Rupert  
Northwest Hospital Alliance  
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences  
Southwest District Health Department  
SW Idaho Area Health Education Center at Jannus  
Syringa Hospital and Clinics in Grangeville  
The Hospital Cooperative  
Weiser Memorial Hospital  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho/Rural Rotation Residents  
Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program/Trust Scholars  
**And dozens of individual members interested in rural health.**



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