

**NEWS RELEASE****Communications & Legislative Services** ■ Phone: 402-471-9108 ■ Fax: 402-471-3996 ■ [www.dhhs.ne.gov](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov)**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact** Kathie Osterman, Communications and Legislative Services, 402-471-9313 or [kathie.osterman@nebraska.gov](mailto:kathie.osterman@nebraska.gov)**Image available at:** [www.dhhs.ne.gov/EmployeeRecognition2015](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/EmployeeRecognition2015)**Hastings Regional Center Medical Services Director to Be Recognized as  
DHHS Employee of the Year****October is Nebraska State Employee Recognition Month**

**Lincoln**— Hastings Regional Center (HRC) medical services director, Dr. Kenneth Zoucha, is being recognized as one of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) employees of the year.

October is Nebraska State Employee Recognition Month. State agencies are allowed to select one employee and one supervisor of the year for every 500 people employed by the agency.

"These employees and supervisors are an inspiration to all of us and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication," said Courtney Phillips, DHHS CEO. "It is a true honor to be nominated by your peers for this recognition."

Zoucha was nominated by his coworkers who said he is "compassionate, dedicated, caring, intelligent and skilled." They also said his knowledge and experience help him serve the youth in HRC's care well.

Zoucha will be honored along with the rest of DHHS' employees and supervisors of the year on Thursday, October 29 with a reception with Gov. Pete Ricketts at the Capitol Rotunda, a reception at the Governor's Residence and a DHHS recognition at the Cornhusker Hotel.

HRC is part of DHHS' Division of Behavioral Health.