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For more information, contact:

Carl Seitz

E-mail: seitzc@lvbch.com

**LVBCH Names *Leadership in Wellness Recognition Award* Winners
 At event focused on “Emerging Trends in Healthcare: What’s Next?”**

Bethlehem, PA (May 9, 2019) The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) announced its 2019 Leadership in Wellness Award recipients during the 39th Annual Conference, “Emerging Trends in Healthcare: What’s Next?” on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at DeSales University.

The Leadership in Wellness Award Recognition program recognizes executive leaders at LVBCH member companies for their innovation, dedication, and contribution to the success of their organization’s corporate wellness program.

“The Coalition is committed to raising awareness about the importance of employee health programs to not only improve the financial wellbeing of our member companies, but also, and more importantly, to improve the health of employees,” said Carl Seitz, LVBCH President.

2019 Award Recipients included:

- **Daniel Gagnier of Equinox Agency**
- **M. Theresa Schwartzter of Univest Finance**
- **Bishop Alfred Schlert of the Diocese of Allentown, in Memory of Thomas O. Kern**

Erin Postel of BeneFIT Corporate Wellness and the LVBCH’s Education and Wellness Committee thanked all of the LVBCH members who nominated leaders for the Award, adding that the committee was impressed by the innovative ways in which these executives are supporting their employees in making healthy lifestyle choices. Best practices identified through the application process were shared with attendees.

“All of the award recipients lead by example,” Postel said. “They ‘walk the wellness talk’ to develop cultures that promote healthy behaviors as ‘the way we do things around here.’”



L to R: Carl Seitz, Jill Weaver (Diocese of Allentown), Annie Kern (Diocese of Allentown), M. Theresa Schwartzter, Daniel Gagnier, Erin Postel, Kevin Davis (Univest)



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“Employee wellness programs are not only the right thing to do,” Seitz said, “but benefits companies. Research suggest that healthy employees have lower absenteeism, increased work productivity, and lower health plan costs. Because they have high job satisfaction, they are also less likely to leave.”

The awards were presented as one of the highlights of the record attended annual conference, which featured an exhibit area, opportunities for networking including breakfast and lunch, and the following thought-provoking presentations by national and local healthcare experts:

- **Robert Laszewski, President, Health Policy and Strategy Associates - 2019:**
The Healthcare Political and Market Landscape
- **Fred Rahmanian, Chief Technology Officer & Shelley Riser, RN, Vice President of Consulting Services and Clinical Innovations, Geneia - Geneia Data Update: Moving From Insights to Action**
- **Yahira Acevedo-Santiago, MD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician & Frank Hyland, Executive Director, Good Shepherd - Work-Related Musculoskeletal Injuries & Beyond Limits: The Ekso Bionics Exoskeleton**
- **Deborah Gan, Executive Director, Integrated Account Management, Merck - Exploring the Biosimilar Market Landscape**

About LVBCH

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. The Coalition’s mission is to improve the delivery, cost and quality of health care in our communities through: collective employer action; quality and data initiatives; value based purchasing; and, providing forums for the exchange of information, ideas and resources. The Coalition is also a member of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, the National Quality Forum and the Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.LVBCH.com