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For Immediate Release

AHRA Announces 2006 GE Healthcare Award for Excellence Recipients

(Sudbury, MA, September 6, 2006) – The American Healthcare Radiology Administrators (AHRA) recognized the 2006 GE Healthcare Award for Excellence recipients during AHRA's 34th Annual Meeting & Exposition in Las Vegas, NV last month.



AHRA and GE Healthcare sponsor a prestigious award program to recognize radiology administrators for exceptional innovation, leadership, administrative capabilities and sharing of expertise and experience. Nominations came from the administrator's staff and colleagues. Five AHRA members were honored this year and presented with a crystal award, and in addition, GE Healthcare donated \$2,000 in each award recipient's name to the AHRA Education Foundation. Recipients of the Award for Excellence also received a blue blazer embroidered with the Award for Excellence logo. The 2006 recipients were:

- **James A. Amato, MBA**, Radiology Administrator, University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, VA
- **Roberta M. Edge, CRA, FAHRA**, Director of Imaging Services, Sutter Gould Medical Foundation, Modesto, CA
- **Diane M. Nelson, RT, CRA**, Radiology Manager, Jamestown Hospital, Jamestown, ND
- **Colleen J. Payne**, CEO/Administrator, MCI Diagnostic Center, Tulsa, OK
- **Eleanor A. Richardson**, Executive Director, North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center, Peabody, MA

James A. Amato, MBA has been an AHRA member since 1988. According to his colleagues who nominated him, "Jim is committed to the organization's vision, values, purpose, and direction and effectively communicates that to each and every employee ... Jim's approach has clearly created a sense of teamwork and he works diligently to remove barriers for his staff and the faculty. Jim is one of a few administrators who can truly understand the complexity of the environment and not be overwhelmed by the challenges it creates." Another colleague commented, "Jim is the perfect blend of watching out for the patients, watching out for employees, and watching out for the company."

Roberta M. Edge, CRA, FAHRA has been an AHRA member since 1988, obtained Fellow (FAHRA) status in 2000, and passed the inaugural certified radiology administrator (CRA) exam in July 2002. She is past-president of AHRA, and has served on AHRA's Board of Directors, AHRA Education Foundation Board of Directors, AHRA Program Assessment Committee; Chaired AHRA's 2000 Annual Meeting Design Team and has written for *Radiology Management*. According to her colleague who nominated her, "mentor, resourceful, objective, fair, understanding, decisive, cooperative, organized, excellent communicator, loyal friend, and colleague, not to mention great sense of humor, are just a few of many adjectives to describe Robbie." Over the last 3 years, Robbie converted an analog department into a complete digital department with implementation of PACS and shortly after replaced CR with digital equipment.

Diane M. Nelson, RT, CRA has been an AHRA member since 1999 and passed the CRA exam in March 2006. According to her colleagues who nominated her, "Diane is continually striving for excellence and looking for ways to improve the working conditions and services provided at Jamestown Hospital." She has implemented CR/PACS in the last year, worked to promote state-of-the-art technology in a rural setting, developed a radiology student hiring package to ease staffing shortages, and has initiated programs to promote cross-training and certification in other modalities.

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Colleen J. Payne has been an AHRA member since 2005. Colleen began Mobile Cardiac Imaging in 1998 and according to a colleague who nominated her, "she created this state-of-the-art mobile coach delivering medical services to rural areas, as well as to the heart of Tulsa. Mobile Cardiac Imaging was started with only one other employee but through sheer determination and perseverance, she prevailed because not only was she the only technologist when this company began, but she was also the driver which required her to get a CDL to drive this semi .. she was also salesperson, marketing director, manager, and the billing department." MCI has now grown to include a fleet of 9 vehicles and 26 employees. Colleen is also very active in community and civic services.

Eleanor A. Richardson has been an AHRA member since 1982 and has served on AHRA's Annual Meeting Design Team from 2002-2005. According to her colleague who nominated her, during the past 18 years while working at North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center, "Ellie has been the visionary leading this company to what it has become today – a well respected imaging center providing the highest level of quality to its patients and referring physicians. "Ellie has been the force behind continuously obtaining emerging technologies ... Even through this tremendous growth, Ellie has made a concerted effort to focus on each employee and their individual needs."

AHRA, the premier association of managers in imaging sciences, provides the information, education, and networking opportunities needed to succeed in today's rapidly changing healthcare environment. Through the efforts of hundreds of active volunteers, AHRA brings information about the most current and complex topics to its members and interested others.

The AHRA Education Foundation is a non-profit foundation dedicated to education in the field of radiology management and related disciplines. Since its inception in 1990, it has offered hundreds of seminars to managers at all levels across the country. In addition to sponsoring seminars, the foundation also offers several educational scholarships as well as providing other educational opportunities for members.

For more information about AHRA or the AHRA Education Foundation, visit <http://www.ahraonline.org>

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