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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION HONORS INDIVIDUALS WITH 2015 AWARDS**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – The Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) with other sponsoring organizations, presented eight 2014 awards to deserving individuals on Thursday, June 11, during its 133rd Annual Convention held at The Embassy Suites in Little Rock from June 11-13.

“The extraordinary contributions of these award winners in their pharmacies and communities is matched only by their passion for the health of all Arkansans,” Arkansas Pharmacists Association Executive Vice President and CEO Mark Riley said. “Arkansas pharmacists remain the most accessible health care professionals and these winners are a great example of why pharmacists also rank among the most trusted professionals.”

APA 2015 Award recipients include:

**2015 Pharmacist of the Year:** Wayne Padgett, P.D., owner of Woodard Drug in Glenwood. This award recognizes pharmacists for outstanding contributions to the profession and the advancement of pharmacy.

**2015 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year:** Rachel Stafford, Pharm.D. UAMS faculty member and Kroger Pharmacy Patient Care Specialist. The award recipient must have graduated from pharmacy school less than 10 years ago and be active, involved and interested in the future of the profession.

**2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award:** Nicki Hilliard, Pharm. D., UAMS faculty member. The award, sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, with support from Boehringer-Ingelheim, was established to honor pharmacists who have contributed to the progress of their community through community service.

**2015 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award:** Taylor Franklin, Pharm.D., Ft Smith. This award was established by the APA in cooperation with the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations to recognize a pharmacist who has demonstrated a prominent spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in the practice of pharmacy.

**2015 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Award:** Aduston Spivey, P.D., owner of Hot Springs Pharmacy. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community.

**2015 Percy Malone Award for Public Service:** Lenora Newsome, P.D., Walgreens pharmacist in Camden. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community.

**2015 Charles M. West Leadership Award:** Mr. Brett Bailey and Ms. Brandi Bowers, third-year students at the UAMS College of Pharmacy, received a scholarship to support their leadership skills and

contributions to the profession of pharmacy. Each has served in leadership roles and volunteered extensively for student pharmacy organizations during their three years at the College of Pharmacy.

**2015 Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation Award:** Ms. Nora Martin, third-year student at the Harding University College of Pharmacy, received a scholarship from the Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation to support her leadership skills and contributions to the profession of pharmacy. Martin is active as a volunteer in student associations and in the National Community Pharmacists Association.

*The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.*

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