



Rising Leader in Health Care Transformation Award

Call for Nominations

About the Award

The Rising Leader in Health Care Transformation Award recognizes a non-executive health care professional or small team demonstrating exceptional leadership potential through action, initiative, and collaboration. Recipients proactively bring people together, spark innovation, and drive meaningful transformation in healthcare, often beyond the formal scope of their roles. The award was established in memory of Michael T. Warner, a former systems engineer at University Hospitals, who truly embodied and shared his passion for improving health care in Northeast Ohio through big-thinking, education, and a human-centered approach in all he did. The award will be presented at the Northeast Ohio Health Care Transformation Forum on May 8, 2026.

Eligibility

The award is open to non-executive healthcare professionals or small teams working in the Northeast Ohio region. Nominees should:

- Take initiative as self-starters
- Lead through influence, not position
- Build cross-disciplinary connections
- Translate ideas into outcomes
- Inspire others to participate in change
- Demonstrate impact in one or more of the following areas:
 1. Quality Improvement
 2. Patient Safety & Experience
 3. Innovation
 4. Technology & Digital Transformation
 5. Infection Prevention
 6. Leadership & Culture Change

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Initiative and Self-Motivation:** Demonstrates proactive leadership and ownership beyond assigned responsibilities
2. **Collaborative Leadership:** Brings people together across disciplines to drive change
3. **Innovation & Problem Solving:** Sparks new ideas and challenges existing practices
4. **Impacts & Outcomes:** Achieves measurable improvements in care and culture
5. **Growth Potential:** Shows a clear trajectory as a rising leader who inspires sustained transformation

To nominate, submit a letter of 500-700 words addressing:

- ✓ Why this individual or team is a rising leader in healthcare transformation
- ✓ How the nominee(s) demonstrate initiative or self-motivation
- ✓ How the nominee(s) bring others together to spark innovation
- ✓ The impact of their efforts (metrics encouraged)
- ✓ Why this work matters to patients, teams, and healthcare

Please include both your own and your nominee(s)' names, titles, and contact information.

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY MARCH 15, 2026 TO

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