

IJCAHPO Recognizes Statesmanship Award Recipients

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Dec. 5, 2018—The International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology Inc. (IJCAHPO) recently honored Richard Cunningham, MD, and Kenneth Westfield, MD, with the organization’s Statesmanship Awards. The Statesmanship Award was established in 1975 and is given to those who have manifested leadership through their support, training, and use of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel, and whose career has demonstrated dedication to the finest ethics and ideals of the ophthalmology profession. The award is given to a current or previous Councilor and a Non-Councilor.

Richard Cunningham, MD, Councilor Statesmanship Award

Richard Cunningham, MD, received the Councilor Statesmanship Award. Dr. Cunningham was recognized for his many years of outstanding service and dedication to the education of ophthalmic medical personnel. Dr. Cunningham is a Professor Emeritus, in the Division of Ophthalmology at the Scott and White Clinic in the Texas A&M University College of Medicine. He was a JCAHPO Commissioner, representing the Association of University Professors in Ophthalmology from 1990-1992, a faculty member for JCAHPO Continuing Education Program for Ophthalmic Personnel (1989-1996) and Director of the JCAHPO Education and Research Foundation from 1991-1997. He has also assisted with accreditation and served as a site visitor when needed.



Kenneth Westfield, MD, Non-Councilor Statesmanship Award

Kenneth Westfield, MD, received the Non-Councilor Statesmanship Award. Dr. Westfield is Chairman of the Board & CEO of the Gift of Sight, which he founded to “realize his vision for a world where treatable yet debilitating eye conditions were addressed in the places of most need.”

Since its inception, he has been able to help and heal thousands of people in his home community of Las Vegas and the world over who would otherwise not have received the necessary care. Dr. Westfield has traveled extensively to provide eye care services to those in need, as well as to pass on his knowledge to others who can carry on his work. He has performed or taught cataract surgery on every continent except Australia. He is also deeply committed to mission work in Haiti and volunteers his time to serve as Medical Director of the Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti, which aims to alleviate the hunger, illiteracy and poor health conditions of the children in that region.



In 1980, he founded a private practice in Las Vegas, Westfield Eye Center, which has since grown to become the largest full-service ophthalmology center in Nevada. Among his many accomplishments, he served as the founding medical director of the Nevada Eye Bank; was the first to perform refractive surgery in Las Vegas (radial keratotomy); opened the first satellite eye care clinics to serve outlying rural Nevada; was the first surgeon to perform cataract surgery in a freestanding ambulatory surgery center; and was the first to successfully service a large managed care contract, making ophthalmic surgery in Las Vegas more affordable for plan participants. He also started the first ophthalmic assisting program in Nevada.

Dr. Cunningham and Dr. Westfield were recognized during the organization's 46th Annual Continuing Education (ACE) Program, which took place October 26-28, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

“On behalf of IJCAHPO's Council, the Board of Directors, our Education and Research Foundation, and the IJCAHPO staff, it is an honor to recognize these leaders for outstanding achievement in, and support of, quality patient care and the advancement of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel,” said William F. Astle, MD, FRCSC, Dipl. ABO, President of IJCAHPO's Board of Directors.

About IJCAHPO®

The International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO), formally the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO), was

established as a not-for-profit organization in 1969 to offer certification and continuing education opportunities to ophthalmic allied health personnel. Since then, more than 26,900 people in the U.S., Canada, and around the world have earned IJCAHPO® certification. For more information visit: www.jcahpo.org.

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