



Media Contact:

Stacy Shelp, Public Information Officer

Phone: (919) 245-2462 or Cell: (919) 636-8842

sshelp@orangecountync.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY'S DR. COLLEEN BRIDGER HONORED AS NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Orange County, NC (January 22, 2014) – Orange County Health Director, Dr. Colleen Bridger was awarded the North Carolina Health Director of the Year Award on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. The award is given by the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors. This award is given to an individual for outstanding leadership in both public health in North Carolina and for leadership and involvement in local community and civic activities.

“What makes this award so special is that Health Directors are nominated by co-workers, and the winner is selected by other Health Directors. So it is the people who know you and your work best making this decision. I would not have received this award were it not for the amazing team with whom I work. It is a joy and honor to work with public health leaders at the health department, on the Board of Health, and throughout our community,” stated Dr. Colleen Bridger.

Dr. Bridger was nominated by the leadership team of the Orange County Health Department, the Orange County Board of Health, and community partners. Her nomination cited her work on health policies such as Smoke-Free Public Places and Naloxone distribution to counter the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose; creating a culture of innovation within the health department, partnership development, and expansion of clinical services.

“This award is validation of the outstanding leadership Dr. Bridger brings to the table. In the short time she has been with Orange County, she has implemented sweeping change, which the community benefits from on a daily basis. Now, she has placed Orange County’s Health Department on the map,” said Interim County Manager Michael Talbert.

Dr. Bridger has been the Health Director in Orange County since October of 2011.



PHOTO CAPTION – *Dr. Colleen Bridger accepts North Carolina Health Director of the Year Award*

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