



For Immediate Release  
September 9, 2019

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**Quad City Health Initiative Welcomes New Board Members**

The Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI) is pleased to announce the appointment and election of 6 new board members in 2019. The latest additions continue QCHI's unique 20-year history of ensuring multiple community sectors are at the table and creating key partnerships for the health of all Quad Citizens. Those joining the board include community leaders representing non-profit, business, education and faith perspectives.



Liz Boardman is City Editor of the Quad-City Times. She's been a journalist since 2006, winning numerous press awards. Boardman received her degree from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro.

Laura (Divot) Ekizian is Executive Vice President, Chief Relationship Officer at Quad City Bank & Trust. Previously, she had a coaching career in golf and served in higher education. Ekizian has a Bachelors and MBA from St. Ambrose University.



Rene M. Gellerman is President & CEO of the United Way of the Quad Cities. She has more than 20 years of experience in the public and non-profit sectors – most recently as Senior Vice President of the Quad Cities Chamber where she led the development of Q2030, our region's community and economic development plan. Gellerman received her degree from Western Illinois University.

Dr. Melvin L. Grimes is Executive Director of Churches United of the Quad Cities Area. He serves on numerous boards, including the State of Illinois Council on Aging and the Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Dr. Grimes received a Masters and Doctorate from Grace Valley Theological Seminary.



Dr. Kristin Humphries is East Moline School District's Superintendent. He has held that post since 2010. Dr. Humphries received a Bachelors from the University of Northern Iowa, a Masters from Western Illinois University, and a Doctorate from Northern Illinois University.

Brian Strusz is Superintendent of the Pleasant Valley Community School District. He has worked there for 22 years in various roles. Strusz received a Bachelors from Winona State University and a Masters from Western Illinois University.



“QCHI is special because we work across organizations, across community sectors to help improve health. These committed and engaged leaders will continue that legacy and lead us into the future,” says Dr. Mike Oberhaus, QCHI Board Chair.

*The Quad City Health Initiative is a community partnership seeking to create a healthy community. A cross-sector community Board, established in 1999, oversees the organization. The Initiative strives to be our community's recognized leader for creating collaborative action on health and abides by the core values of commitment, collaboration and creativity. For example, Be Healthy QC – just one of our projects – continues to align the bi-state community in promoting healthy eating and physical activity. Major financial support of the Quad City Health Initiative is currently provided by the generous direct and in-kind investments of Genesis Health System and UnityPoint Health-Trinity. Additional support in 2019 is provided by more than 30 organization and individual sponsors. For more information, please call 563-421-2815 or visit our website at [www.qchealthinitiative.org](http://www.qchealthinitiative.org).*

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