WORCESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S DEBBIE GOELLER EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD



Who is Debbie Goeller?

Deborah, better known to all as Debbie, was committed to helping others. She started her lengthy medical career by first getting her RN in 1973 from Maryland General School of Nursing, then earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing Science. She served as the Assistant Head Nurse at the Shock Trauma Unit of the University of Maryland Medical Center and as the Head Nurse at the Intensive Care Unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1978, with her family, moved to the eastern shore and shortly thereafter she started her 34-year career in the Worcester County Health Department where she was appointed as the Health Officer for Worcester County, a position she held for 26 years. Notably, she was the first nurse to ever hold this position in Worcester County. She retired as Health Officer in 2017, but continued to support the community part-time.

PURPOSE

The Debbie Goeller Excellence in Public Health Award is to recognize exemplary performance by individuals identified by their peers as having excelled in public health with integrity and a strong commitment to the community/population health of Worcester County.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Any current member of the Worcester County Health Department staff or community member can submit nominations. Self-nominations will be accepted and all nominations will be confidential. Nominations will be forwarded to the Office of the Health Officer and will be reviewed by the Excellence Award Review Committee.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Nomination materials should consist of a nomination form.
- A statement from the person making the nomination that explains the nominee's commitment to public health and any documented accomplishments.
- Any other essential documents that provide evidence of the nominee's excellence.

CRITERIA

The Excellence in Public Health Award recipient will have made a significant impact on public health through outstanding dedication, competence, exceptional performance, or excellent service. Nominee will have made important and/or significant contributions in public health, contributes and/or demonstrates commitment to public health, demonstrates exceptional ability to foster collaboration, communication and cooperation between the public/private sector and/or consistently seeks to improve the quality of public health services.

EXCELLENCE AWARD REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Excellence Award Review Committee consists of the members of the Annual Public Health Conference Committee who will evaluate and rank the nominees and forward the recommendation to the Health Officer.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Nominations will be accepted **February 2, 2026**, through **February 27, 2026**. For more information, please email worcester.health@maryland.gov or call 410-632-1100 ext. 1120.

AWARD PRESENTATION

The Debbie Goeller Excellence in Public Health Award will be presented to one recipient during National Public Health Week, April 6-10, 2026.

Debbie Goeller Excellence in Public Health Award

Nominee's name (please print or type): _____
Date: _____
Nominee's Agency/Organization: _____
Nominated by (please print or type your name): _____
Contact (phone & e-mail) for additional information: _____

DIRECTIONS

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated one or more of the criteria listed above, using specific examples. Please provide as much detail as possible (you may wish to attach additional page(s).

Please e-mail the completed form to worcester.health@maryland.gov by February 27, 2026. The information will be kept confidential until it is shared with the nomination committee. Brief excerpts may be used in the recognition of the nominee.