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CONTACT

Lara Sisselman

lara@cstrategies.com

VNA Health Care President and CEO Linnea Windel Receives Honorary Degree from Aurora University

VNA and Aurora University have built decades-long partnership based in shared commitment to service

AURORA, IL - Today, VNA Health Care President and CEO Linnea Windel received an honorary degree from Aurora University (AU) at its Spring 2022 commencement. At the ceremony, AU President Rebecca L. Sherrick presented Windel with the honorary degree and highlighted the longstanding connection between VNA and AU. In a partnership that has spanned decades, the two institutions have a shared commitment to service and dedication to helping others.

"While I may be the one who received this honor today, I truly believe that it is a reflection of the tireless work of the entire VNA team who work so hard to provide the quality of care that our patients in Aurora and beyond have come to expect from us," said Linnea Windel, President and CEO of VNA Health Care. "This honor is one I will cherish as a powerful symbol of the partnership shared between Aurora University and VNA Health Care, a partnership that I have no doubt will continue for years to come."

VNA has long worked with AU's School of Nursing to provide nursing students with community health experiences at VNA. Recently, VNA has hosted AU social work students and has also provided internships for AU business students. Windel is a member of the AU Board of Trustees and holds a Master of Science in Nursing from AU.

"As I watched Linnea Windel and VNA lead our community through the pandemic's early months, I was truly inspired," said AU President Rebecca L. Sherrick. "They put the welfare of their neighbors first in every way. They dispensed care and counsel. Their response was truly heroic. I am so proud that Linnea earned her advanced degree in nursing at AU and serves as a valued member of our Board of Trustees."

VNA is the largest community health center in the Chicago suburbs, serving more than 75,000 patients at its 16 locations each year, including more than 30,000 Aurora residents. From the onset of the pandemic, VNA continued to provide care to their patients and communities served in health center, community, and home settings, both in-person and via telemedicine, providing ongoing care to help patients stay as healthy as possible. To date, VNA staff has completed 55,000 COVID tests and administered over 95,000 doses of vaccine.

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About VNA Health Care

VNA Health Care is the largest community health center in the Chicago suburbs, serving more than 75,000 patients each year across 16 clinics. For more than a century, VNA has provided care to those in need. At the

core of VNA's mission is a commitment to improving health equity and decreasing disparities in healthcare. VNA serves a large, multi-ethnic population, and serves those with or without insurance. To learn more, visit www.vnahealth.com.

About Aurora University

Founded in 1893, Aurora University is a four-year, private, nonprofit, accredited higher education institution offering students an exceptional education. AU is located on a beautiful 39-acre campus in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois, approximately 40 miles from Chicago. The university serves more than 4,000 undergraduate and approximately 2,000 graduate students across more than 50 majors and programs. AU leadership, faculty, and staff are committed to the success of our students, offering academic support programs, hands-on learning activities, internships, and community partnership opportunities that prepare students to be successful beyond AU.