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James Blacksher Awarded Idaho Physician Assistant of the Year



April 4th, 2014 the Idaho Academy of Physician Assistants awarded James (Jay) Blacksher, PA-C with the prestigious award of Physician Assistant of the Year. The award ceremony took place at the annual Academy of Physician Assistants conference in Sun Valley.

This award recognizes an exceptional PA who has a history of consistently advocating for his or her patients, practice and profession. In addition to excellence on the job, nominees are frequently active in such areas as public education, community citizenship, charitable healthcare and other volunteer activities.

Jay graduated from Duke University in 1983 and spent 7 years on clinical practice and critical care medicine. He completed his emergency medicine residency at USC/LA County Medical Center in 1991. Eighteen years ago he and his colleagues started Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (EMPA), an emergency room staffing group that serves Idaho, Utah, Montana and Washington.

Jay has provided emergency care at North Canyon Medical Center (NCMC), previously named Gooding County Memorial Hospital, for 21 years and serves as the emergency room director. “Through the years, Jay has been the catalyst to improving emergency medicine in Gooding and the surrounding communities. There are countless families that can attest to his exceptional lifesaving skills and compassion for others. He has a true passion for rural emergency medicine,” stated Shellie Amundson, Community Relations Director at NCMC.

In addition to his passion for rural emergency medicine, Jay is a member of the Gooding County Swat Team, and provides education and training to area EMS crews.

A celebration to honor Jay’s achievement will be held Tuesday, April 22nd from 1:00 – 2:00pm at the North Canyon Medical Center cafeteria, community members are invited to attend. Cake and ice cream will be served.