

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Health Department seeks nominations for Health Champion awards**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will recognize a youth and adult resident for their exceptional efforts to model, encourage and promote health in the community during National Public Health Week, April 7-13.

Director Dan Partridge encourages residents to take the opportunity to nominate their favorite Douglas County Health Champions for these awards. The deadline is March 5 and the nomination form can be found at [ldchealth.org](http://ldchealth.org).

Nominees are expected to have demonstrated:

- Work that goes above and beyond what is expected through normal job or organizational responsibilities.
- Efforts that have resulted in a positive health impact on others in the community.

“We know there are many deserving individuals in our community. Whether they’re starting a walking group or a new garden or volunteering to serve on a health work group or clinic for low-income residents, this is an opportunity to recognize these individuals and their efforts,” Partridge said.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board will select the Health Champions, who will be recognized during a community breakfast at 7:30 a.m. April 11 at the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St. The event will be open to the public as part of the Health Department’s celebration of National Public Health Week. Douglas County’s inaugural Health Champion Michel Loomis, a longtime Lawrence teacher, will be the keynote speaker at the event. Loomis retired in 2013 after teaching English and physical education at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School for 31 years. She also has been recognized by the state of Kansas for her efforts to improve health among youth.

This is the second year for the Douglas County Health Champion awards. Last year’s youth winner was Josie Naron, a volunteer at the Health Department.

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[www.ldchealth.org](http://www.ldchealth.org)

