



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECCHC's Heather Westcott, RN, Honored with Prestigious Statewide Ohio G.R.I.T. Administrator Award

Sandusky, Ohio — [June 10, 2026] — The Erie County Health Department and Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) are proud to announce that Senior Chief Clinical Officer Heather Westcott, RN, has been awarded the 2025 Ohio G.R.I.T. Administrator Award.

Presented by the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance in partnership with the national School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA), the annual G.R.I.T. Awards celebrate individuals who demonstrate **G**enuineness, **R**esilience, **I**nnovation, and **T**enacity in their contributions to school-based health care. Westcott was selected for her exceptional leadership in expanding and managing ECCHC's robust regional school-based health center infrastructure.

Under Westcott's clinical direction, ECCHC operates four school-based health centers across the region, heavily expanding local healthcare access by embedding essential medical services directly into local school districts. The current safety net school-based network includes:

- **EHOVE Career Center & Margaretta School District:** Providing a full, integrated spectrum of primary health, dental, and mental health services.
- **Sandusky Career Center:** Focused on delivering essential primary health and mental health support.
- **Vermilion High School:** Focused on primary healthcare delivery alongside integrated Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services.

"Heather Westcott embodies the absolute definition of grit, and this statewide recognition is incredibly well-deserved," said Peter T. Schade, Erie County Health Commissioner. "Building and managing a school-based health network across four distinct districts, Heather has worked tirelessly to ensure that our students have immediate access to top-tier primary, dental, and mental health care right where they learn."

By eliminating transportation barriers and coordinating comprehensive care directly within the schools, the health center's school-based program ensures that students receive preventative and acute interventions without missing vital instructional time.

The Ohio School-Based Health Alliance recognizes leaders like Westcott who push past systemic challenges to foster healthier school communities. The G.R.I.T. Administrator Award underscores her ongoing commitment to data-driven public health strategy, clinical excellence, and compassionate care throughout Erie County.

About Erie County Health Department:

The Erie County Health Department remains dedicated to improving the health and wellness of all residents through accessible, compassionate, and comprehensive healthcare services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point, providing adult day services for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients. For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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