

10/26/2018 – NC – HARRIS AWARD

Hoke County Physician Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Karen L. Smith, MD, FAAFP Recognized for Leadership, Service, Advocacy, and Quality Care

Cary, NC – Dr. Karen Smith of Raeford, North Carolina was awarded The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence's (CCME) 2018 Harris Memorial Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the improvement of health care quality and service to the medical community. Dr. Smith has shown dedication to her community through her private practice and her involvement in health care reform initiatives, treatment of substance abuse disorders, and onsite education experience.

She has been an active member of the Hoke County community for 26 years as a family physician in the rural community of Raeford, and an active member of the state for 13 years through the Division of Medical Assistance Advisory Board and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. Recognizing that the needs of her patient population reached beyond the exam room, Dr. Smith became involved with the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP) where she served in all levels of the organization, ultimately becoming president of NCAFP in 2005. Currently she serves as the delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Smith values and understands the importance of physician education and has actively participated in education programs across the state. Recently, she traveled to seven counties in North Carolina to discuss the Stop Act. She is also dedicated to providing students in health care educational opportunities in rural medicine to demonstrate the value of team-based care.

The award was presented by CCME Board Treasurer, Dr. John Mangum, at the North Carolina Medical Society LEAD Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 19th. The ceremony and reception were attended by family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Smith.

The Harris Memorial Award was established twenty years ago to honor the life and memory of one of CCME's founding members, T. Reginald Harris, MD. Dr. Harris passed away in 1999 and was well-known for his decades of service to the medical community through the North Carolina Medical Society, the American Medical Association, and many other professional, civic, and community activities.



Dr. Karen Smith, MD, FAAFP accepting the CCME 2018 Harris Memorial Award at annual North Carolina Medical Society LEAD Conference.