

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Allen Leadbetter, MD Honored for Service in Health Care in Rhode Island**

**Providence, RI** – Allen Leadbetter, MD, a member of The Westerly Hospital medical staff, was honored with the 2005 Benjamin R. Sturges Distinguished Service Award by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) at its recent annual Celebration of Excellence awards ceremony. The Distinguished Service Award is bestowed in honor of Benjamin Sturges, a community leader who devoted his life to health care and to bettering the community. For half a century, Sturges was active in hospital issues as a trustee at South County Hospital and Butler Hospital as well as taking up many educational and environmental causes.

“I congratulate Dr. Leadbetter on his hard work and dedication,” said Lou Giancola chair of the HARI board of trustees and president and CEO of South County Hospital Healthcare System. “Dr. Leadbetter is the latest in a line of remarkable individuals who have made tremendous contributions to our health care community. The association is proud to present him with this award.”

“Anyone who knows Allen Leadbetter knows he’s a special individual,” said Charles S. Kinney, president and CEO of The Westerly Hospital. “He’s known for his sincerity with the hospital board of trustees to his leadership roles in advancing new services and facility improvements.”

Dr. Leadbetter has made remarkable contributions to Rhode Island’s health care community. He has been a member of The Westerly Hospital medical staff since 1976. He has served as a leader in convening a multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Board for the hospital to review cases and develop individualized care plans for each patient. Dr. Leadbetter also regularly mentors student interns considering careers in medicine.

Leadbetter, a principal in Westerly Medical Center, Inc., earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine after graduating from Johns Hopkins University. He is a fellow in the American College of Surgeons and is a member of several state and national medical societies.

The Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team received the HARI Award for Public Service for the team’s extraordinary achievement in serving the people of Rhode Island.

The employees of the year from HARI’s nine member hospitals were also recognized during the program.

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*Pictures of the award recipients are available electronically by request.*