

**GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO PRESENT 2019 PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS**  
*Top Honors go to Stephanie Marquesano and Jack Waxman*

Together with County Executive George Latimer, the Westchester County Board of Health will present the 2019 Public Health Awards on **Thursday, April 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center at White Plains High School, 550 North Street, White Plains.**

This year's awards recognize outstanding contributions to public health in Westchester by five people and one program, and will celebrate the accomplishments of the public health community during National Public Health Week, which is observed April 1-7. Following the awards presentation, a White Plains High School student who is a peer leader in the school's Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness group will describe their outreach activities as part of this year's CODA Week celebration.

Board of Health President Robert Baker, MD, will present the Dr. Harold Keltz Distinguished Public Health Service Award to Stephanie Marquesano, an Ardsley resident, who has made it her mission as founder of the harris project to raise awareness about co-occurring disorders, which are the combination of one or more mental health challenges and substance misuse/addiction, in both prevention and treatment.

The J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award will go to Jack Waxman, 18, of Scarsdale, for his efforts to promote the dangers of vaping to his peers and for lobbying for legislation that would ban the sale of flavored e-liquids and reduce youth access to tobacco.

The Board will also recognize four Public Health Honorees:

- Glenn Albright, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist from Bedford who directs the Veterans Equine Therapy program at 13 Hands Equine Rescue in Bedford. Through therapeutic work with horses,

Dr. Albright helps veterans who experience post-deployment stress, and their families, free of charge.

- Abe Baker-Butler, 17, of Rye Brook, is a leader of Students Against Nicotine, a student-led nonprofit organization, and a peer educator and trainer on preventing teen e-cigarette use. He has advocated for Tobacco 21 legislation and increased restrictions on vaping-related products at the County and State level.
- Shauna Porteus, of Irvington, is the Community Services Librarian at the Yonkers Public Library who has helped make the library a vital resource for advocacy and community support. She applied for and was awarded a grant to pilot a case management program at the library, where patrons are linked to needed services, including housing, jobs, health care and government programs.
- WJCS Center Lane is the County's only LGBTQ+ youth and community education center. It serves young people from ages 13 to 21, providing social and recreational activities, support groups, individual counseling, social justice and advocacy, as well as workshops and leadership training.

### **About Westchester County**

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)

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