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**KAREN A. WAGER, DBA, NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE INAUGURAL
QUINT STUDER GRATITUDE PRIZE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

Washington, DC, April 21, 2022 – The Quint Studer Gratitude Prize for Teaching Excellence Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Karen A. Wager, DBA, Professor and Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina, as the first recipient of the Quint Studer Prize for Teaching Excellence. The Prize will be presented to Wager at the Awards Presentation session on Thursday, June 9th, during AUPHA's 2022 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The [Quint Studer Gratitude Prize for Teaching Excellence](#) was established in 2021 to honor Quint Studer - healthcare executive and entrepreneur; teacher, coach, and mentor; and community builder and humanitarian - for his many years of service to the fields of healthcare management and leadership and healthcare management and policy education; and for his service to, and love for, AUPHA.

Dr. Wager was nominated by Abby Swanson Kazley, PhD, Professor and Division Director, Master of Science in Health Informatics, at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I am deeply honored to be the inaugural recipient of the Quint Studer teaching award. My respect and admiration for Quint runs deep for the profound impact his teachings and writings have had on generations of healthcare leaders," said Wager. "I also share Quint's gratitude for the inspiring teachers in my life. It truly has been a privilege to work with and learn from so many dedicated and inspiring colleagues and students over the years. I feel blessed to have had such a long and rewarding career as an educator. We are all teachers and learners, and with open minds and open hearts, we will continue to change what's possible in healthcare."

“As our inaugural winner, Karen Wager set a very high standard and is exemplar in all the areas Quint had laid out for this award,” said Studer Prize Selection Committee Chair Leah J. Vriesman, PhD, MHA, MBA, Executive Director and Professor, Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management and Co-Director, Center for Healthcare Management, at the University of California Los Angeles. “The selection committee, AUPHA leadership, and all your academic colleagues congratulate you, Karen!”

Wager is a professor in the Department of Healthcare Leadership and Management and associate dean for student affairs in the College of Health Professions at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she teaches management and health information systems courses to graduate students. She has more than thirty-five years of professional and academic experience in health administration. Recognized for her excellence in interprofessional education and in bringing practical research to the classroom, Wager received the 2016 College Teacher of the Year award and the 2008 MUSC outstanding teaching award in the educator-lecturer category and the 2008 Governor’s Distinguished Professor Award. In 2020, MUSC awarded Wager the Distinguished Faculty Service Award, one of the highest honors bestowed, for her long and devoted service to the University and her profession. She has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and a widely adopted textbook in healthcare information systems, now in its fifth edition (2022).

She completed her undergraduate studies in health information management from the University of Pittsburgh, her masters in health sciences—finance and health information systems from MUSC, and holds a doctor of business administration (DBA) degree with an emphasis in information systems from the University of Sarasota.

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