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LEIGH W. CELLUCCI, PhD, MBA, NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 GARY L. FILERMAN PRIZE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Washington, DC, February 15, 2024 – The Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Leigh W. Cellucci, PhD, MBA, as the recipient of the 2024 Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership. Cellucci will be recognized at the Awards Presentation Session on Wednesday, June 5th, during AUPHA’s 2024 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

The Filerman Prize recognizes individuals from AUPHA member programs who have made outstanding contributions to the field of healthcare management education, who have exhibited leadership in their field, and who have enriched their institutions, their students, and healthcare management through their work.

“Dr. Cellucci was nominated by colleagues Cathleen Erwin at Auburn and Mark Diana from Tulane University,” said Christy Harris Lemak, PhD, FACHE, Professor, School of Health Professions, at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Chair of the 2024 Filerman Prize Selection Committee, and the 2022 recipient of the Filerman Prize. “The Committee noted Dr. Cellucci’s accomplishments in academic leadership at East Carolina and Idaho State Universities, as well as her excellence in teaching and improving the field - including her three textbooks that have been used by students in programs across the country. In addition, Dr. Cellucci has a sustained record of leadership at AUPHA, including but not limited to serving as a Board member and Chair. We noted in particular Dr. Cellucci’s career-long leadership, commitment to, and enthusiasm for AUPHA. She is highly deserving of the Prize.”

“I am grateful to be a member of AUPHA, an exceptional organization committed to advancing academic excellence and improving healthcare,” said Cellucci. “The Filerman Prize embodies these principles, and I am honored to count myself among its recipients. Through my involvement with AUPHA, I have gained many colleagues who have generously served as
mentors and have become friends. My heartfelt thanks go to the committee for this esteemed award.

Prior to joining East Carolina University, Dr. Cellucci served as a faculty member at Francis Marion University and Idaho State University. While at Idaho State, she concurrently served as the Director of the Idaho Center for Disabilities Evaluation, a statewide initiative funded by a grant from the Idaho Division of Health and Human Services, Medicaid. She earned her BS degree from the College of Charleston, MA from the College of William and Mary, PhD from the University of Virginia and MBA from Idaho State University. She was a Fulbright Scholar to India (Fulbright-Hays), Erasmus+ lecturer in Bulgaria, and recipient of a grant for innovative teaching from the American Sociological Association as well as the Branch Banking and Trust (now Truist Bank) Leadership Enhancement Fund grants that focus on leadership development in the classroom. She received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award. She has been published in journals such as Health Policy and Technology, Business Case Journal, and Journal of Health Administration Education and has three books published by Health Administration Press (two in second edition), focusing on healthcare management.

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