



# NEWS



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## McLean County Board of Health presents 2015 Public Health Award

BLOOMINGTON—Jackie Lanier, assistant professor in the Health Education Program in the Department of Health Sciences at Illinois State University, was awarded the 2015 McLean County Public Health Award for furthering public health principles, practices and services of McLean County by her work to promote sustainable healthy changes, for a healthier McLean County, as well as her daily work to develop and inspire future health and wellness leaders. McLean County Board of Health President Becky Powell, presented the award at a reception held before the Board of Health meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Lanier has a long history of public health advocacy and leadership in community-wide health efforts. She was instrumental in starting the Obesity Task Force, now the McLean County Wellness Coalition, and has continued to help lead and advance the group since its inception in 2009. The McLean County Wellness Coalition now includes over 30 organizations working toward policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to reduce obesity.

For the past year, Lanier has served as coordinator of the Veggie Oasis initiative, which has reached more than 700 people and handed out over 5000 pounds of fresh produce. The Veggie Oasis is a partnership with the West Bloomington Revitalization Project, Downtown Bloomington Association Farmers' Market, and McLean County Wellness Coalition that focuses on gleaning excess produce from the Farmers' Market every Saturday to distribute to residents without ready access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Lanier's deep roots in endeavors promoting sustainable healthy changes for a healthier McLean County coupled with her daily work to develop and inspire future health and wellness leaders, exemplifies her dedication to public health.

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Each year, the McLean County Board of Health Public Health Award honors a McLean County resident, volunteer or employee who exhibits leadership in a public health-related activity and contributes to health promotion efforts within the county. The contribution can be professional or occupational, in a volunteer or paid capacity; in areas such as the aging population, communicable disease, emergency preparedness, environmental health, health education and promotion, individuals with disabilities, injury prevention, maternal/child health, mental health, nutrition and fitness or any other health-related field.

For more information about the McLean County Health Department or the McLean County Board of Health, call (309) 888-5450 or visit <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov>. For social media users, “Like” McLeanHealth on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter, for updates about public health affecting you.

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