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ATSU's Dr. Alan Freeman receives national award in community health

A.T. Still University (ATSU) Senior Director of Patient Care Centers Alan O. Freeman, DMgt, MBA, FACHE, was honored with the 2023 John Gilbert Award by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). This Award of Excellence was presented Aug. 27 during NACHC's 54th Annual Convention & Community Health Institute in San Diego.

The award was established to recognize John Gilbert's outstanding contribution to NACHC and the community healthcare field prior to his death in 1974. It is presented to an individual who, as a member of either the board or staff of a health center, has demonstrated a level of excellence in the community healthcare field.

Dr. Freeman joined ATSU in February 2023. During a period spanning 37 years, he served as chief executive of two community hospitals and two CHC organizations, and for a time in 2013 as director of the Missouri Department of Social Services as part of Gov. Jay Nixon's cabinet. From 2006-22, Dr. Freeman was president and chief executive officer at Affinia Healthcare in St. Louis.

Dr. Freeman holds a doctorate in management and a master of business administration degree from Webster University in St. Louis, where he served as an adjunct professor for 11 years. He is also a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Among other recognitions, he received Webster University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017 and ATSU's Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2022. His volunteer commitments include service to others through various professional associations and his love of gospel music.

"A.T. Still University congratulates Dr. Freeman on receiving this prestigious national award and recognition," said ATSU President Craig M. Phelps, DO, '84. "Alan's excellent leadership in healthcare administration has positively affected the lives of countless Missouri individuals and families."

Dr. Freeman and his wife, DeeAnna, are lifelong Missourians. They grew up surrounded by the beautiful Ozarks in the Reynolds County communities of Black and Ellington, respectively. They now reside in O'Fallon, Missouri.

About A.T. Still University of Health Sciences

Established in 1892 by A.T. Still, DO, the founder of osteopathic medicine, [A.T. Still University of Health Sciences \(ATSU\)](http://atsu.edu) began as the nation's first college of osteopathic medicine and has evolved into a

leading university of health sciences comprised of a growing community with a rich history in education and osteopathic healthcare. Today, ATSU offers certificates and master's degrees across health disciplines; and doctorates in athletic training, audiology, health administration, education, health sciences, medical science, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, dental medicine, and osteopathic medicine.