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Richmond Pharmacist John O. Beckner Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA) has selected John O. Beckner as the recipient of the 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Beckner was presented with the award at the Awards Banquet during the VPhA 134th Annual Convention on Tuesday, July 28. The Bowl of Hygeia is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the American Pharmacists Association with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

Beckner is the senior director of strategic initiatives with the National Community Pharmacists Association. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy.

Beckner is actively involved in the pharmacy profession at both the state and national level. He is a member of the Virginia Pharmacists Association, of which he served as president in 1996-1997, and the Virginia Association of Chain Drug Stores, of which he was vice president in 2009. At the national level, he is an active member of the American Pharmacists Association.

Outside of the pharmacy arena, Beckner is dedicated to serving his community in a variety of capacities and is seen as a leader, inventor, and friend to those committed to community betterment. He has served on the Henrico County Pandemic Planning Committee since 2008 and with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation since 2000. He also participated in the American Heart Association Walk health screenings from 2000 to 2007 and the “Live Healthy, Be Healthy” cable TV program from 1994 to 2006.

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition to service through their local, state and national pharmacy associations, award recipients have devoted their time, talent and resources to a wide variety of causes and community service.

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession’s most prestigious awards. The Bowl of Hygeia has been associated with the pharmacy profession since as early as 1796 when the symbol was used on a coin minted for the Parisian Society of Pharmacy. The bowl represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. Healing through medicine is precisely why the pharmacy profession has adopted the Bowl of Hygeia symbol.

About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation

The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., is a trusted source of research demonstrating how pharmacists can improve health care. The APhA Foundation’s mission is to improve people’s health through pharmacists’ patient care services. The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website www.aphafoundation.org. Follow the APhA Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest updates.

About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPAEE). For more information, please visit the NASPA Web site www.naspa.us.