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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jefferson County Public Health Executive Director Awarded
American College of Preventive Medicine's Distinguished Service Award**

Jefferson County, Colo. – Dr. Mark B. Johnson, Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Health, was presented with the American College of Preventive Medicine's Distinguished Service Award at their annual meeting on June 26, 2020.

Johnson has been a member of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) for more than 30 years and served on numerous committees and projects before eventually serving as president of the College's Board. During his time in leadership to the College, he has also served in roles for the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and the American Council for Graduate Medical Education. He was nominated by Dr. Neal D. Kohatsu, MPH, FACPM, a longtime colleague.

"I cannot think of a physician who is more deserving than Dr. Johnson of receiving the College's Distinguished Service Award," Kohatsu wrote in his nomination letter. "He has led on the front lines of population health, achieving national recognition for his leadership in public health and preventive medicine practice."

Johnson has been the Executive Director of JCPH for 30 years, where he puts the qualities outlined by Kohatsu into work each day to protect and promote health among the residents of Jeffco.

"I am honored and humbled by this recognition, as it is not only from an organization to which I have dedicated much of my life, but one in whose tenets I fully believe," Johnson said. "I'm thankful for the opportunities I have had to serve the preventive medicine and public health communities and for the mentorship and camaraderie I've received from my fellow preventive medicine professionals."

Earlier this year, JCPH was undergoing the process of interviewing for the next Executive Director of JCPH, following the announcement of Johnson's planned retirement, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, nation and eventually, Colorado. Johnson, in an effort to maintain continuity for the public health workforce on the frontlines of the pandemic and a population facing a health crisis, announced he would delay his retirement to help see JCPH and Jefferson County residents through this unprecedented time.

“We’re extremely proud of Dr. Johnson’s latest achievement, as well as grateful for the leadership and guidance he provides each day to our staff and constituents,” said Jody Erwin, Deputy Director of JCPH. “In the years I’ve worked with Dr. Johnson, he’s shown a commitment to prevention and public health and to the betterment of our community. Jefferson County is a healthier, safer and better place to live because of him.”

The ACPM is a professional, medical specialty society of more than 2,000 physicians dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of individuals, families, communities and populations through disease prevention and health promotion.

About Jefferson County Public Health

Public health is what we as a society do collectively to prevent illness and premature death and promote health in our neighborhoods and communities. Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is a nationally accredited health department committed to promoting and protecting health across the lifespan for all people through prevention, education and partnerships. To learn more about JCPH visit <https://www.jeffco.us/public-health>. You can also follow JCPH on Twitter [@JeffcoPH](#), Instagram [@JeffcoPH](#) and Facebook [@jeffcopublichealth](#).

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