Maurice "Mo" Mullet Lifetime of Service Award

Rex Archer, MD, MPH, Kansas City Missouri Health Department (KCMO)

Dr. Archer is a thought leader, known at the local, regional and national levels. He is a leader among peers, staff, and the public. With a career that has focused on public health, he serves his communities with energy and passion. Dr. Archer has been an active leader in NACCHO since 1997, and continues to support NACCHO on committees, the Past Presidents’ Council and review of awards and promising practices. The body of public health work impacted by Dr. Archer includes local, regional, and national accomplishments. Dr. Archer is an innovator, pioneer, and early adopter in many areas of public health. He demonstrates community involvement in his daily activities to support, build, and enhance collaboration among partners. Demonstrating this mutual collaboration and respect, the Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity recognized Dr. Archer as the 2012 Equity Partner of the Year. Their local Clergy Caucus has also invited him to become their only non-clergy member. Under Dr. Archer’s leadership the Kansas City Health Department is recognized as the leading local health department in working innovatively with community organizers. Dr. Archer continues to work with religious/faith-based community organizations to address social determinants of health, with the goal of moving beyond a medical model to a social/ecological model. He has also facilitated bringing together two groups, Communities Creating Opportunities (CCO) and More2 (Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity), representing 40 and 20 congregations respectively, to work together. This combined group, Aim4Peace, was recognized by NACCHO as a Promising Practice in 2011 and has contributed to a decrease in homicides in the areas of the city covered by the program.

During his year as president of NACCHO, Dr. Archer led the committee that developed the first local governmental public health logo, which was launched in 2006. As chair of NACCHO’s marketing committee, he led the development of a public health marketing/branding policy statement that was unanimously approved by NACCHO’s board in July 2012. He has been involved in the public health accreditation discussion since 2004. He has served on the PHAB board since 2008, and KCMO was one of the first 19 state, local, and tribal health departments to receive national accreditation through PHAB. In 2005, Dr. Archer was elected and served as president of NACCHO.

Dr. Archer has twice been recognized as a “Public Health Hero.” In 2008, Research America named him an “American Public Health Hero” for working “tirelessly every day to protect the public,” particularly for support of smoke-free legislation in Massachusetts, Michigan, and Kansas City. In 2003, he was awarded the Crisis Management Award by the Kansas City chapter of the American Society for Public Administration for leadership in response to cross-contamination of anthrax from the Washington, DC area Brentwood facility to a local stamp fulfillment center in Kansas City. KCMO Health Department received National Accreditation from Public Health Accreditation Board in August 2013; the 2018 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award; NACCHO’s 2017 Local Health Department of the Year Award; the 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Culture of Health Prize; 2015 Model Practice/Promising Practice Awards from NACCHO; FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards in 2015; and NACCHO Project Public Health Ready in 2004.