A record-breaking 365 guests joined The University of Kansas Hospital to honor the fourth group of inductees into the hospital’s Hall of Fame at an awards dinner June 10 at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza.

“Our annual Hall of Fame awards celebration is a chance for us to truly say thank you – to celebrate the strong commitment of those who have helped our hospital establish the foundation for our success,” said Bob Page, president and CEO.

Established in 2011, the Hall of Fame honors individuals and organizations instrumental in paving the way for the hospital’s transformational journey from a fledgling independent authority in 1998 to one of the country’s top academic medical centers today.

“No institution achieves lasting success on its own,” said Bob Honse, The University of Kansas Hospital Authority Board chair. “That’s why we are recognizing the extraordinary leadership, advocacy and philanthropy of these special people.”

2014 Hall of Fame honorees
Legacy Award
• Dave Kerr, former Kansas Senate president

Catalyst Awards
• Mid-America Cardiology and MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons, which comprise the hospital’s cardiac program
• Teresa and Tom Walsh, philanthropists

Partner in Excellence Awards
• JE Dunn Construction
• Kansas Speedway

In closing, Page also recognized the dedication and commitment of the physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, support staff and administrative staff. “Their passion to be the best hospital in the country makes a difference in our patients’ lives each and every day,” he said.
Physicians from Mid-America Cardiology and MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons present for the Hall of Fame Catalyst Award were (front row, from left) Jeffrey Kramer, MD; William Reed, MD; Randall Genton, MD; Marty Emert, MD; Gregory Muehlebach, MD; and Peter Tadros, MD; (back row, from left) Brian Weiford, MD; Edward Laughlin, MD; Mark Wiley, MD; Dak Burnett, MD; Steve Owens, MD; Trip Zorn, MD; and Nirmal Veeramachaneni, MD.

Recognizing leadership, advocacy and philanthropy

2014 Hall of Fame inductees

“’The distinguished people and organizations we honor made brave and generous decisions to allow The University of Kansas Hospital’s healthcare providers to do what they do best … with the right governing structure … the right support … and the right focus on patient care.’”

– Bob Page, president and CEO

Legacy Award: Dave Kerr
Honors leaders who have gone above and beyond in service to the hospital over many years

A highly influential Kansas state senator in 1998, Dave Kerr was the chief advocate and a tireless supporter of legislation to create The University of Kansas Hospital Authority. He has continued to champion the hospital throughout its transformation, serving as a pragmatic leader and advisor on the Hospital Authority Board.

Catalyst Award: Mid-America Cardiology and MidAmerica Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons
Honors individuals who have helped transform the hospital through support, innovative thinking and advocacy

Joining the hospital in a leap of faith in 2000, these cardiac practices built an outstanding heart program that accelerated the hospital’s transformation. The program gained national attention in 2007 as the hospital’s first area recognized in the country’s top 50 in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Hospitals – a list it remains on.

Catalyst Award: Teresa and Tom Walsh

After experiencing the fear and uncertainty that accompanies a family member’s cancer diagnosis, the Walshes made a leadership gift to establish The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s Nurse Navigation Program. Disease-specific navigators guide patients and loved ones throughout the cancer journey. The couple’s subsequent gift grew the program to one of the most extensive in the U.S., with 14 navigators.

Partner in Excellence Award: JE Dunn Construction
Honors companies or organizations that have invested in the hospital’s growth and success through philanthropy, volunteerism and/or business partnership

When building the hospital’s Center for Advanced Heart Care, JE Dunn Construction worked closely with staff to ensure construction did not disrupt patient care. Years later, they did the same when adding three levels to the now-iconic structure. The longtime hospital partner has also made generous gifts to our heart and cancer programs.

Partner in Excellence Award: Kansas Speedway
Partnerships between the speedway and the hospital have benefited the community in vital ways since the NASCAR track’s debut in 2001. The speedway’s need for a Level I Trauma Center spurred the hospital to gain the accreditation and resulted in our first sports medicine healthcare partnership. The speedway also serves as the unique venue for the hospital’s annual Treads & Threads gala, which has raised more than $7 million for cancer care.

Hall of Fame awards celebration sponsors

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