



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Medical Services

Ohio Emergency Medical Services • Jeffrey A. Learning, Executive Director
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State Medical Director Selected as the 2012 Recipient of the James Keaney Award

(COLUMBUS) - The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) presented State Medical Director Dr. Carol Cunningham the James Keaney Award on February 10, during the 18th Annual American Academy of Emergency Medicine Scientific Assembly in San Diego, California.

Named after the founder of AAEM, this award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the organization. Nominees for this award must have at least 10 years of experience in emergency medicine clinical practice and must be AAEM members.

“This recognition is a tremendous example of Ohio continuing to take the lead in helping to improve the level of care for patients,” said Jeffrey Learning, executive director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services.

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine is *the* specialty society of emergency medicine. A democratic organization with more than 6,000 members, AAEM is committed to board certification as the standard for specialists in emergency medicine and to securing fair and equitable work environments throughout the emergency medicine community.

Dr. Cunningham is well known for her work as a colleague in the American College of Emergency Physicians and the AAEM. She is a board certified emergency physician at Akron General Medical Center.

Dr. Cunningham, who was appointed State Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS in July 2004, has been an active participant in many national-level EMS activities. She is the current chairperson of the National Association of State EMS Officials Medical Directors Council and serves on Ohio's State Medical Coordination Committee.

Cunningham recently completed the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education and is currently enrolled in the Homeland Security Executive Leadership Program at The Naval Postgraduate School & the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

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The Ohio Department of Public Safety, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.