



## Central Shenandoah Emergency Medical Services Council

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **CENTRAL SHENANDOAH EMS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2017 REGIONAL EMS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

(Staunton, Virginia – June 7, 2017) – Central Shenandoah EMS Council, Inc., (CSEMS) honored the dedication and commitment of its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers at the council's regional awards ceremony June 7, 2017, held at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton.

"Congratulations to all the CSEMS Regional EMS Award recipients for their dedication to providing daily lifesaving services," said CSEMS President, Gary Critzer. "I am honored to recognize the efforts of the men and women who make it their life's work to keep our local communities safe and improve our regional EMS system. It's important for us to take time to honor emergency medical service providers for their demonstrated service excellence and teamwork in their communities," he added.

"Central Shenandoah EMS Council's Regional EMS Awards program provides local EMS personnel the opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of their fellow emergency medical responders," said Chad Blosser, Executive Director of the Council. "Each year, there are EMS providers and system participants who stand out for their exceptional achievements."

"Some recipients have demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to patient care, some have made strides toward improving the local emergency medical services system and still others have made noteworthy ancillary contributions to the local EMS system. It's important that the system and the local community acknowledge their contributions toward public health, safety and wellness." he added.

Recipients of this year's regional awards compete for the 2017 Governor's EMS Awards, which will be announced at the Virginia EMS Symposium's Annual Awards Ceremony, November 11, in Norfolk, Va. Winners will be presented with a trophy and a certificate signed by the Governor.

The 2017 Central Shenandoah EMS Council Regional Award Recipients are:

- **Outstanding EMS Administrator** – [Rob Ham](#), Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad
- **Outstanding EMS Physician** – [Asher Brand, MD](#), Augusta Health
- **Outstanding Pre-Hospital Educator** – [Jeremy R. Green](#), Central Shenandoah EMS Council & Waynesboro First Aid Crew
- **Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider** – [Nicole Showalter](#), Mt. Solon Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad & Augusta County Fire Rescue
- **Outstanding EMS Agency** – [Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad](#)
- **Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS** – [Carolyn M. Book](#), PHI AirCare 5
- **Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior** (\$1,000) – [Savannah Ritchie](#), Grottoes Rescue Squad

Local Awards:

- **Kevin Sperka Memorial Award** (\$500) – [Brandon Propst](#), Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad

**ENDS**

## **For more information:**

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### **About Central Shenandoah EMS Council, Inc.**

The Central Shenandoah EMS Council (CSEMS) provides regional planning and educational support services to its five cities and five counties, eleven towns and many public agencies within its boundary. CSEMS's member localities are the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro and the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham. CSEMS provides many EMS related services to a geographic area of 3,439 square miles with a population of over 278,000 making it the Commonwealth's largest planning district, geographically speaking, and fifth largest in terms of population. It is located along the I-81 & I-64 corridors in the Central Shenandoah Valley.