



**PRESS RELEASE
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2022 Award for Excellence in Health Service Winner Announced
Tess Riley named this year's award recipient

Hot Sulphur Springs, Colo. (July. 13, 2022) — Each year, the Grand County Rural Health Network honors modern-day healthcare pioneers who truly impact the health and lives of individuals and our community. These are individuals or organizations who have contributed significantly, professionally or as a volunteer, to the health of our community.

In 2022, the Network's Board of Directors chose to award an individual that is dedicated to putting the health of the community first despite many obstacles. The Network is pleased to announce the 2022 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Health Service: Tess Riley from Grand County Library District. This deserving award recipient will be recognized during our virtual fundraiser "Gratitude for Grand – Give a High Five for Health" kick-off event on October 5. This fundraising event provides an opportunity for people to share their gratitude and give a "High Five for Health" to individuals, organizations, or groups that made a difference in their health this year. For more information or to give a High Five during the week of October 5-12, please visit www.gcruralhealth.org/highfive/.

Tess Riley is currently a Library Services Specialist with Grand County Library District (GCLD). She first joined GCLD in 2003 as the Children's Librarian for the Granby Library. In the years since, she has held several different positions and worked in several different GCLD branches. Tess believes that by far, the most rewarding aspect of her job is interacting on a day-to-day basis with GCLD patrons. They have services and programs for everyone, from babies to senior citizens. She especially enjoys helping patrons with technology. These days, it's nearly impossible to apply for a job, government assistance, health insurance, or a number of other services without basic computer skills and access to the internet. Often, the people who need these services the most are the ones without the resources and skills to get the help they need. Tess loves being able to empower people with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the digital world. Tess says, "Through my job, I'm able to help technologically challenged members of our community by offering free computer training and assistance that allows them to learn to access websites, create an email account, and connect with resources that would otherwise be out of reach. Seeing the new-found confidence and pride on a patron's face when they realize that they can send an email or fill out an online job application is one of the most gratifying things in the world."

Libraries have always been a true passion for Tess for as long as she can remember. Her favorite activity as a child was riding her bike to the neighborhood library every week to check out a new stack of books. Tess's first job as a teenager was working as a page in that same library. "Even though I've worked for GCLD for nearly two decades, not a single day goes by that I don't think how fortunate I am to be part of a profession that I love so much. I am so incredibly proud of our wonderful library district. Even though we are a small community, GCLD serves our patrons with cutting edge technology and resources."

The Rural Health Network's Board of Directors believes the recipient's leadership, collaborative efforts, and focus on public health best practices and evolving science illustrates the innovation and community impact this award was designated to celebrate. Congratulations to Tess Riley!

Past award recipients include: Brene Belew-LaDue, BSN, RN, and Outbreak of Kindness in 2021; Grand County COVID-19 Incident Management Team Command Staff in 2020; Sue Johnson, LCSW and Katie Hornbaker, CRNA in 2019; Heather Bentler, RN and John Nichols, MD in 2018; Wade Walker, RPh in 2017; Val Lind, RN in 2016; Hannah Foley, NP and Ray Jennings in 2015; Mary Jo Hargadine, RN in 2014; and Therese McElroy, RN in 2013.

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About Grand County Rural Health Network: Grand County Rural Health Network offers access, resources, and support for all of our neighbors to lead their healthiest lives. We believe everyone has the right to health care and to understand how to access that care. We are a nonprofit serving Grand and Jackson counties in Colorado. Our office phone number is (970) 725-3477 and website is <https://www.gcruralhealth.org>. Our local health resource guide can be found at <https://www.healthygrandcounty.org>