

The **Diane E. Cecchettini Excellence in Research Award**, created in 2015, commemorates an exemplary 25-year legacy of service at MultiCare Health System.

Diane Cecchettini served as CEO and President of MultiCare from July 1999 until May 2014. Under her leadership, MultiCare grew to include five hospitals, 10,000 employees, and an expansive community outpatient treatment network.

In addition to Diane's unquestioned legacy at MultiCare, she was also an ardent supporter of research and the driving force behind the creation of the Research Institute in its current form. She facilitated the investment needed to allow the research programs at MultiCare to grow and prosper in a somewhat nontraditional environment – a Community Hospital System. She was also a personal contributor to research program development, becoming one of the first charter members of the MultiCare Society, benefiting research and innovation. This personal philanthropic commitment was a notable spark that helped ignite our now robust donor-funded Investigator-Initiated Research program.

The **Diane E. Cecchettini Excellence in Research Award** is a competitive award honoring excellence and high achievement accomplished through the teamwork of MultiCare employees and their private, academic, or industry partners in the community.

The award is given annually to the individual or individuals whose research efforts best exemplify and further the vision and mission of the MultiCare. The **Diane E. Cecchettini Excellence in Research Award** recognizes exceptional leadership and research discovery in medicine and science on the local, national, and international level.

It can be further characterized as exemplary community health research that translates into a direct improvement in real patient outcomes. This award will recognize interdisciplinary teams working collaboratively to advance medical science and patient care, and those developing best leadership practices to improve patient care and safety. It will also recognize individuals who make significant and lasting contributions to the field of health services research. Health Services Research is defined as “the multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of healthcare and ultimately patient health and well-being. Its research domains are individuals, families, organizations, institutions, communities, and populations”.

The distinguished investigators chosen for this award will be leaders in their fields and role models for the MultiCare values.