

ADvancing States Honors Dr. Bruce Chernof with Arthur S. Flemming Award



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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – ADvancing States, the association representing state long-term services and supports agencies, and its board of directors are proud to announce the winner of the 2020 Arthur S. Flemming Award. This year, the board has selected Dr. Bruce Allen Chernof, President and CEO of the SCAN Foundation, as the recipient of the Flemming award. Martha Roherty, Executive Director of ADvancing States, announced the award during the opening plenary of the 2020 HCBS conference. In her remarks, Martha discussed Dr. Chernof’s upcoming retirement as well as his legacy at the foundation, commenting “Bruce’s tenure at the SCAN Foundation has had a profound impact on the field of aging and it gives me great pleasure to present him with the 2020 Arthur Flemming award.”

Bruce Allen Chernof, MD, FACP, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The SCAN Foundation. The SCAN Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the United States focused entirely on improving the quality of health and life for older adults. Its mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. Previously, Bruce served as the Director and Chief Medical Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Bruce has also served as a Regional Medical Director for Medicaid and SCHIP programs at Health Net, a network model HMO.

Bruce completed his residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine as well as a Fellowship in Medical Education at UCLA. He earned his medical degree from UCLA and completed his undergraduate work at Harvard University, and previously served as an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at UCLA. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at USC. He is a longtime student of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and enjoys working in his Ojai vineyard on weekends.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Chernof discussed the need to change the dynamics of the conversation around aging. He stated, “for me, the first key concept is that we need to see the person and not the program. We need to take the time to understand what people want and not just what they need.” Dr. Chernof closed with his vision for ongoing progress, “I look forward to seeing what the future holds for all of us as we work together.”

About the Award

Arthur S. Flemming Award

Since 1978, NASUAD has chosen one individual in the field of Aging to receive the annual Arthur S. Flemming Award. Dr. Flemming spent years in public service, culminating with his role as the U.S. Commissioner on Aging. He served as the Commissioner on Aging until 1978. The core of what is now commonly called the national Aging Network, consisting of state agencies on aging, sub-state area agencies on aging and thousands of service providers grew out of his leadership. Dr. Flemming's role in aging is well-known, but he was equally well known for his role in fighting for civil rights. Indeed, Dr. Flemming served as chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1974 to 1981. As depicted by those who knew and worked with him both in public life and in his many private roles, Mr. Flemming possessed a rare and perhaps unequalled combination of bureaucratic competence, compassion for the needy, and ability to inspire those around him to action.

Some prior Flemming award winners include Robert Butler, Dorothy Height, Josefina Carbonell, M.T. Connelly, Dr. Bill Thomas, Fernando Torres-Gil, Senator Bernie Sanders, Kathy Greenlee, and Senator Barbara Mikulski.

About ADvancing States

ADvancing States was founded in 1964 under the name National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). In 2019, the association changed its name to ADvancing States. Today, ADvancing States represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities and long-term services and supports directors.

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