



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
February 10, 2020

CONTACT: Jodi Boyne  
jboyne@leadingagemn.org

**Jennifer Pfeffer, Senior Regional Director of Operations, Ecumen  
Receives Outstanding Leadership Award from LeadingAge Minnesota**

Saint Paul, MN – (February 20, 2020) – Jennifer Pfeffer, Senior Regional Director of Operations at Ecumen, was recently honored by LeadingAge Minnesota with the Kal Michels Outstanding Leadership Award. The award recognizes a leader in older adult services who has provided excellent leadership to their staff and organization, enhances the quality of life for the residents in the community, and provides exceptional community service.

“Jennifer Pfeffer is a consummate aging services professional who is both a highly skilled operator and a committed visionary leader. She is a role model, generous mentor, and has devoted her career to ensuring that older adults have the highest quality care, services and support,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “Jennifer leads with vision and intention. Her integrity and high standards inspire excellence for everyone on her team and sets the example for all in the field of aging services to follow.”

Pfeffer served as the Executive Director of Ecumen Pathstone Living in Mankato for 15 years, where she transformed a stand-alone nursing home into a continuum of care campus that is recognized as a model of best practices and for its exceptional performance, top customer and employee satisfaction, and community engagement. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services consistently gives Ecumen Pathstone a five-star quality rating and the organization has been voted as the best senior care setting in Mankato for five years in a row.

In addition to her organizational and clinical leadership, Pfeffer has served as supportive mentor to many in the aging services field and is recognized for fostering the potential and strengths of those who have answered the call to caregiving.

“Jennifer is a team-builder and collaborator who is always looking to the future and how to make it better for the people we serve. She puts the resident experience first and is motivated by a genuine desire to serve more people in more meaningful ways,” said Shelley Kendrick, President & CEO, Ecumen. “In the more than 15 years that she led Ecumen Pathstone in Mankato, she developed best practices that have become standards across our company.”

Pfeffer is a recognized leader in the field of aging services and an active community volunteer. She serves on the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators, was a member of the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors, and currently serves in a variety of leadership roles on the association’s committees and task forces. A lifelong resident of Mankato, Pfeffer received the Women of Distinction award from the YWCA of Mankato, where she served as president and was a member of the board. She is a long-time Rotary Club member and past president and has served as board member and secretary/treasurer of Greater Mankato Growth.

Pfeffer accepted the Kal Michaels Outstanding Leadership Award at the LeadingAge Minnesota Institute & Expo, the state’s largest and most comprehensive aging services conference. More than 4,000

professionals in all aspects of older adult services attend the annual three-day event to learn about new and innovative programs, share best practices and network with their peers.

For more information, watch [Jennifer Pfeffer – Kal Michaels Leadership Award](#).

*Photo Caption: Jennifer Pfeffer accepted the Kal Michels Outstanding Leadership Award at the LeadingAge Minnesota Institute & Expo, the state's largest and most comprehensive aging services conference attended by more than 4,000 older adult services professionals. Pictured (l to r) Sara Sterling, Chair, LeadingAge Minnesota Awards & Recognition Committee; Nancy Stratman, Board Chair, LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors; Jennifer Pfeffer, Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota.*

### **About LeadingAge Minnesota**

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota works alongside its members, caregivers, advocates and consumers to collectively shape the future of aging services and ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, LeadingAge Minnesota members provide quality services and supports to nearly 70,000 older adults in independent senior housing, assisted living communities, adult day services, in-home care and skilled nursing facilities.

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