

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
ANNUAL HEALTHCARE AND STEM AWARDS DINNER HONOREES**

2024 Healthcare Distinguished Honoree

Deborah Visconi

*President & Chief Executive Officer
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center*



Deborah Visconi is the President and CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, the largest hospital in New Jersey and the fourth largest publicly owned hospital in the country. In her more than three decades in healthcare, she has excelled in providing strategic direction, vision, and leadership.

Recognized for her servant leadership style and unparalleled commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and strategic collaborations, Visconi has helped the Medical Center's transformation, leading to a financial turnaround and 5% positive operating margin. She drove negotiations with major insurers, which led to the hospital now accepting 99% of commercial insurance plans. She has championed the Medical Center's Foundation and has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars in grant funding to renovate and innovate both infrastructure and services at the Medical Center.

Visconi is known for her passionate commitment to healthcare access for traditionally underserved communities. This dedication has led the Medical Center to create satellite offices in nearby communities as well as establishing CareRite Now primary care centers at Bergen County supermarkets.

Visconi's efforts have resulted in Bergen New Bridge being selected as a Veterans Community Care Provider, receiving the Joint Commission's Advanced Health Equity certification, and maintaining leadership in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality in the Human Rights Campaign Healthcare Equality Index. She is steadfast in the fight against the opioid epidemic, recently overseeing the establishment of the Comprehensive Center for Addiction Treatment which provides an innovative holistic model of care. Under her tenure, Bergen New Bridge received its first Leapfrog A Grade as well as being named a Top Hospital and a Top Teaching Hospital.

Visconi has been recognized as being a healthcare innovator, mentor, and thought leader by numerous organizations and publications. In 2024, she was No. 8 in the NJBIZ Power 100 List of the most influential people in New Jersey. In 2023, she was named one of the Top 25 People of Color, a Champion of the C-Suite, and a Top Woman in Business by ROI-NJ. NJBIZ honored her with an Icon Award and the Healthcare Professional of the Year Award. She was listed in the top ten of NJBIZ's Power 100 and was selected for their Health Care Power 50.

Visconi earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Health Services Administration as well as a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from The New School for Social Research In New York City.

2024 STEM Distinguished Honoree

Robert Cohen

*President, Digital, Robotics, and Enabling Technologies
Stryker*



As president of Stryker’s Digital, Robotics, and Enabling Technologies organization, Robert is responsible for leading efforts that build, maintain, and elevate surgical procedure enabling technologies, including robotics and navigation, and digital healthcare such as pre-planning, predictive analytics, and artificial intelligence.

Robert has more than 35 years of experience in the medical device industry, spearheading orthopaedic innovations including advanced joint replacement and spinal implants, novel biomaterials, and robotics. His extensive expertise helps to ensure Stryker continues to expand the enterprise capability in all aspects of digital, robotics and enabling technologies.

Prior to his current role, Robert served in technical leadership roles for Implex Corp, Zimmer, Mako Surgical, and just prior as the Chief Technology Officer for Stryker’s Joint Replacement division. Robert has over 25 patents and speaks globally at medical education conferences. Robert received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, and masters’ degrees in both engineering management and mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He also serves on numerous boards and is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, his alma mater. Robert is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

2024 Essex County Healthcare Honoree

Valerie Fitzhugh, MD

Professor and Chair of Pathology

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Senior Vice President, Pathology Services

Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health



Dr. Valerie Fitzhugh is Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

She is academically productive in her specialty areas of bone and soft tissue pathology and cytopathology, having authored many peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and a book, *Survival Guide to Bone Pathology*. She is an invited member of the International Skeletal Society, a society of experts in musculoskeletal medicine which includes pathologists, radiologists, and

orthopedic surgeons.

She is Past President of the New Jersey Society of Pathologists and was the inaugural Vice President of the Society of Black Pathology. She also currently serves as the Chair of the College of American Pathologists Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, the Chair of the Association of Pathology Chairs Undergraduate Medical Education Committee, and the Chair of the International Skeletal Society Prizes Committee.

Dr. Fitzhugh has interests in the recruitment, retention, and promotion of Black and other underrepresented groups in medicine to pathology, as well as socioeconomic disparities in healthcare and topics within social justice. She is a proud wife and mom to two beautiful children and enjoys sports, fishing, video games, anime, and activities with her family.

2024 Passaic County Healthcare Honoree



Aiman Rifai, MD

Orthopedic Surgery

St. Joseph's Health

Aiman Rifai, MD, is an orthopedic surgeon at St. Joseph's Health. He graduated from New York Medical College and has been in practice for 26 years. He currently practices at North Jersey Hip and Knee Center PC and is affiliated with St. Joseph's University Medical Center.

Dr. Rifai completed residencies at Peninsula Hospital Center and John Hopkins University. He is board-certified on orthopedic surgery and is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, American Medical Association and American Osteopathic Academy, Orthopedics.

2024 Hudson County Healthcare Honoree



Sherwin Schrag, MD

*General Surgeon and Surgical Critical Care
RWJBarnabas Health*

Sherwin Schrag, MD has been a general surgeon and critical care surgeon with RWJ Barnabas Health for over 15 years. Prior to that he was an associate clinical professor of surgery at St. George's University School of Medicine for 12 years. He completed his residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem and his fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dr. Schrag received his medical degree and his master's degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. He earned his bachelor's degree from Lafayette College.

2024 Bergen County Healthcare Honoree



Harvey Weber

*Vice President, Facilities Management and Emergency Preparedness
Englewood Health*

Harvey Weber, 54, is a New Jersey native and former EMT/Firefighter Lieutenant and is currently the vice president of facilities management and emergency preparedness at Englewood Health. Harvey previously spent a decade serving as Englewood Health's director of emergency medical services. He is the father of 4 children.

Harvey Weber was pulling up to the second hole on a golf course in West Palm Beach Florida when he collapsed out of the side of his golf cart.

After his golfing companion successfully called an ambulance, Harvey informed the EMTs that he needed to be taken to a "comprehensive stroke center."

With this in mind, EMTs bypassed a closer hospital and headed to St. Mary's Medical Center, a choice that would soon prove lifesaving for Harvey. When his colleagues heard news of his stroke, the hospital mobilized to ensure he was receiving comprehensive care in Florida, then chartered a plane to bring him to Englewood Health's ICU.

Harvey spent over a month in a coma and required a hole drilled into his brain to remove a significant bleed. Still, if you ask Harvey now, he'll tell you he was one of the lucky ones. Harvey says his experience

as a first responder prepared him to recognize the early signs of stroke and take strategic action that led to lifesaving care—lessons he now wants to share with others.

2024 Good Scout Award Honoree

Hon. Nellie Pou

*NJ State Senator
35th Legislative District*



NJ State Senator Nellie Pou was first elected to the New Jersey Legislature in 1997, where she served in the Assembly for the first 14 years, before her rise to the Senate in 2011. She was the first woman and the first Latina elected to represent the 35th Legislative District.

In January 2022, Senator Pou became part of Senate Leadership as Senate Majority Caucus Chair and she currently serves as Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairwoman of the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus.

She was installed as the President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) to serve for their two-year term limit (2021-2023). She is the first legislator from New Jersey to preside over the more than 400-member organization, which was founded in 1989 as a nonpartisan nonprofit and spans 42 states, as well as Puerto Rico. In this role, Senator Pou worked closely with legislative colleagues from across the country, while championing resolutions that reflect many of her landmark prime-sponsored state laws that serve as a model for other legislatures.

For over 25 years serving in the Assembly and the Senate, she has navigated into law many policies ranging from social justice to criminal justice reform, as well as human and civil rights. Senator Pou has worked with colleagues to provide businesses with more opportunities to grow and thrive, to improve economic independence, provide quality and affordable education and healthcare for all ages, to expand voter participation, restore funding for vital programs, and to ensure more diversity on the New Jersey Supreme Court, as well as advocating for many other important initiatives.

During the last several years, Senator Pou has also recognized the importance of increased representation in STEM fields, not only for the individual success of students, but also for the advancement of innovation and research. As a result, she prime-sponsored legislation signed into law that requires the NJ Secretary of Higher Education to develop guidance for institutions of higher education to identify cultural barriers in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs.

Moreover, Senator Pou also initiated legislation signed into law, that directs the NJ Department of Education to develop an outreach program aimed at encouraging young women and minorities to pursue post-secondary degrees and careers in STEM.

Senator Pou has served as a panelist, keynote speaker and/or moderator for an array of national and statewide organizations, as well as having been featured on multiple media outlets for many prime

sponsored laws that have led New Jersey to serve as a national leader, including as one of NJ Insiders 100 Policy Makers 2020.

She has served as President-Elect of the National Hispanic Council of State Legislators (2019-2021), a member of the New Jersey Complete Count Commission for the U.S. Census, and as an Executive Board member of the National Association of Democratic Latino Officials (NALEO).

She serves on the New Jersey Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission, the NJ Puerto Rico Commission, NJ Disparity in State Procurement Study Commission, the NJ Task Force for Continued Transformation of Youth Justice and the NJ Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment Opportunity. She is a member of the National Council of State Legislators, Women in Government, the National Order of Women Legislators/National Foundation of Women Legislators, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the Women's Political Caucus, Emerge New Jersey, and the Council of State Government.

Senator Pou worked for the City of Paterson for over three decades, including as Director of Human Services and Business Administrator and has served in many leadership positions throughout her years of service to our community.