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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging Announces Award for Leadership**

BLOOMINGTON – The East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging (ECIAAA) is proud to announce Mr. Harley Bennet ECIAAA Corporate Board member representing Clark County, and ECIAAA Advisory Council Liaison as the recipient of the Dr. Arthur H. Larsen Leadership Award for 2022.

The Dr. Arthur H. Larsen Leadership Award is presented each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing programs, services, and opportunities for older persons in East Central Illinois. The Leadership Award is named in honor of Dr. Arthur H. Larsen who served as the first Chairperson of the ECIAAA Corporate Board in 1974.

ECIAAA is proud to honor Mr. Harley Bennet for his service to the Illinois Aging Network illustrated by his leadership as illustrated by his nine years of service representing Clark County on the ECIAAA Corporate Board since 2013. Mr. Bennet served on the Executive and Finance Committees, served two terms as Secretary, and served as Corporate Board Liaison on the ECIAAA Advisory Council.

Mr. Bennet also served on the Rides Mass Transit Board of Directors for eight years representing Clark County. Mr. Bennet was also very active with the Marshall Main Street program, serving as president. In addition, Mr. Bennet worked with community leaders in restoring Harlan Hall Opera House, which is now a beautiful community center. Mr. Bennet and his wife, Ann, raised three children - Laura lives in Paris, Rachael lives in Champaign, and Joseph lives in Seattle. Mr. Bennet lost his wife in November of 2017. Mr. Bennet will continue to serve on ECIAAA's Advisory Council.

ECIAAA is a non-profit corporation founded in 1972 and designated by the Illinois Department on Aging to serve older persons and family caregivers in a 16-county area. ECIAAA is funded with grants of federal Older Americans Act funds and Illinois General Revenue Funds through the Illinois Department on Aging. By serving 16 counties in East Central Illinois, the 60+ population is estimated at 190,900. ECIAAA administers an

Counties Served: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, Vermilion

The East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal Statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call the IDoA Senior HelpLine 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY), or contact the Area Agency's Civil Rights Coordinator at 1-800-888-4456.

Funded by Older Americans Act and General Revenue through the Illinois Department on Aging

annual budget of \$11.4 M. Together with 24 community programs on Aging, ECIAAA provides a wide range of services for over 23,400 older adults and 1,100 caregivers annually.

For more information, please contact Susan C. Real, Executive Director, at 309-533-3232 or email at: [sreal@eciaaa.org](mailto:sreal@eciaaa.org).

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