

Lee Health Ranks among America's 250 Best Employers for Diversity

(Fort Myers, Fla. – Feb. 13, 2018) --- Lee Health's diversity is recognized among some of the largest and most recognizable companies, including Coca-Cola, Apple, Amazon.com, Walt Disney and Starbucks, as part of Forbes magazine's "America's Best Employers for Diversity 2018" list. Lee Health ranked 58 out of 250 companies and is the ninth highest ranked health care provider and the second highest ranked organization in Florida.

According to the magazine, the rankings are the results of an independent survey from a sample of 30,000 American employees who work for organizations with 1,000 or more employees from 25 different industry sectors. The evaluation criteria include:

- Direct recommendations, meaning employees were asked to give their opinion on statements surrounding topics concerning their employer age, gender equality, ethnicity, disability, LGBTQ+ and general diversity.
- Indirect recommendations, which allowed participants the chance to evaluate other employers in their respective industries that stand out either positively or negatively regarding diversity.
- Diversity among top executives/board
- Diversity key performance indicators, including but not limited to the existence of a department/position responsible for diversity, proactive communication of diverse company culture, etc.

"Lee Health is made up of different ages, ethnicities, religious and cultural backgrounds, which makes our team of nurses, physicians, staff and volunteers very diverse," says Larry Antonucci, M.D., MBA, President & CEO, Lee Health. "That diversity is one of our greatest strengths and enables us to live our mission, vision and values, and deliver compassionate care every day and night."

Jon Cecil, Lee Health Chief Human Resources Officer, agrees that diversity is key to success. "By employing a diverse staff, we open ourselves up to new ideas, opinions and innovations, and we learn to work together," he says. "We are very proud to have our diversity and inclusion celebrated and to be included among such prestigious, world-renowned companies."

Diversity is not only found among Lee Health's workforce, but also with their patients, which makes having a diverse staff even more important. "Diversity is important in health care," explains Yemisi Oloruntola-Coates, Lee Health System Director, Diversity and Patient Care Civil Rights. "Diversity is the mix and inclusion is making the mix work. Studies show that when we are culturally responsive to our patients and team members, it enhances the work and the experience. Having a diverse staff and one that models dignity, respect and inclusive behavior certainly help improve the patient experience and patient care. We are DiverseLee—a community putting diversity and inclusion into practice."

To see the full list of "America's Best Employers for Diversity," go to <https://www.forbes.com/best-employers-diversity/list/>

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.

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