

## JCCHAT receives Community Champion Award

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The Jackson County Community Health Action Team (JCCHAT) received a 2014 Community Champion Award for its county-wide Body Mass Index project. The award was presented at the annual Turning Point Conference that was held in Midwest City.

The Body Mass Index project began in 2010 and has grown to include the six school districts in the county and one private school. The average number of students who participate each year is about 2000 in grades first through sixth.

Haley Rinkenbaugh is a Registered Dietitian at Jackson County Memorial Hospital and is the chairperson of the Nutrition and Fitness task force, a subcommittee of JCCHAT. She spearheaded the project that included members of the JCCHAT coalition, school districts, and the Biomedical Sciences students at Southwest Technology Center who chose this as their outreach project.

The data collected is compiled and reports distributed to the school districts. The reports provide parents and school administration information regarding student health. The project has impacted wellness policies that have increased fresh foods, snacks, and beverages provided on school properties as well as physical activity opportunities. The BMI project will continue this school year.

Jackson County Community Health Action Team is a coalition of individuals working to improve the health of all communities within Jackson County. JCCHAT began meeting in March 2002 as a partner of the Oklahoma Turning Point Initiative. The five focused areas are: Access to Health Care, Community Based Services, Nutrition & Fitness, Substance Awareness—including tobacco cessation, and Systems of Care.

JCCHAT is the facilitator of the Oklahoma State Health Department's campaign for Certified Healthy Businesses, Schools, Campuses, and Cities in Jackson County. "Shape Your Future" and "Turning Point" are state organizations that provide leadership to community coalitions.

Individuals and organizations throughout Jackson County are encouraged to attend monthly JCCHAT meetings the second Wednesday of each month at noon in the Large Conference Room at Jackson County Memorial Hospital. The JCCHAT chairperson is Thomas Fisher, Dean of Wayland Baptist University at Altus Air Force Base. Dennie Christian is the Jackson County Turning Point Consultant and Tara Turner is the CX Nutrition and Fitness Coordinator and the coalition contact. To learn more about the progress being made, contact the Jackson County Health Department at 580-482-7308.



JCCHAT members attend the Turning Point Conference in Midwest City and accepted the 2014 Community Champion award. Pictured are Debbie New, Rosalyn Hall, Kim Rumschlag, Tara Turner, and Lisa Ross. Back row—Victoria Cleveland, Dennie Christian, Kim Bryant, Bonnie McAskill, and Karen Weaver.