

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ROSEVILLE PHYSICIAN RECEIVES MMA'S HIGHEST AWARD**

**MINNEAPOLIS** – Roseville physician Blanton Bessinger, M.D, was presented with the Minnesota Medical Association's Distinguished Service Award on Thursday, September 20, during the MMA's 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Mankato.

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor bestowed on a colleague by the MMA. The MMA is a professional organization representing about 10,000 physicians, fellows, residents, and medical students in Minnesota. The physician who receives the Distinguished Service Award must have made outstanding contributions to medicine and to the MMA.

After seven years on the University of Minnesota faculty, Bessinger was in private pediatric cardiology practice for 10 years in the Twin Cities. He exhibited concern for children's health and welfare in the policy arena as well as in his medical practice. He served as a member of the Governor's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Task Force and the state Alliance with Youth Advisory Committee. He was on the board of directors of Ready 4 K, helping all children get ready for kindergarten, and is currently on the board of directors of Way to Grow.

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Dr. Bessinger has served as president of the MMA, a member of the Board of Trustees, speaker and vice speaker of the MMA House of Delegates. He is a member of the Ramsey Medical Society Board of Directors.

He is currently an alternate delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. He also serves on the American Medical Association Council on Constitution and Bylaws.