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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIRGINIA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION Honors Award Winner

The Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA) has selected **Sarah Melton** of Bristol, VA as the recipient of the 2016 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award. Melton was presented with the award at the Awards Banquet during the VPhA 135th Annual Convention on Saturday, September 10th. The award is sponsored by Cardinal Health and administered by the Alliance for Patient Medication Safety.

This award recognizes a pharmacist who has demonstrated excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention. The award is intended to recognize outstanding efforts within the pharmacy community to raise awareness of this serious public health problem. The award is also intended to encourage educational prevention efforts aimed at patients, youth, and other members of the community.

Melton is actively involved in her community bringing awareness and options to those facing the addiction of substance abuse. The abuse and misuse of prescription medications continues to be a significant public health crisis across the country and in our local communities. Because of Melton's understanding of addiction as a disease and her compassion for everyone with addiction, she has developed and coordinated several programs in southwest Virginia regarding addiction to controlled substances in that region. These programs are available to all health care professionals.

The Virginia Pharmacists Association, founded in 1881, is the professional association representing the pharmacists of Virginia. The purpose of the Virginia Pharmacists Association is to assure the viability and vitality of the profession of pharmacy by advocating for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in legislative, regulatory and public affairs. The focus of advocacy shall be to maximize contributions of the profession to public health, and patient care and to increase public awareness of the value of pharmacy services.