

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PATRICIA NILES OF DALLAS, TEXAS RECEIVES AWARD FROM ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS



From Left to Right: Elling Eidbo, CEO of AOPO; Patricia Niles, president and CEO of Southwest Transplant Alliance; Jay Campbell, J.D., AOPO president 205-2016 and national regulatory liaison for Lifesharing.

VIENNA, Va. — July 29, 2016 — On Wednesday, June 22, 2016, the <u>Association of Organ Procurement</u> <u>Organizations</u> (AOPO) recognized Patricia Niles by presenting her with the Association's President's Award. The award was presented at the Association's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas by the 2015-2016 AOPO President Jay Campbell, J.D.

The President's Award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to both their organ procurement organization (OPO) and the organ procurement community as a whole through servant leadership. "We are leaders; we are capable, we are bright, but we are always in service," said

Jay Campbell, J.D. "Through her drive and spirit Niles shows her uncompromising love for helping others and saving lives, which has allowed her to embolden, empower and inspire her team to turn Southwest Transplant Alliance around with long-term, data-driven, best-practice programs."

Niles has served on several AOPO Councils and Committees and has served as chairperson of the AOPO Ethics Committee and Procurement Council. She continues to remain active in the national Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice. Niles is currently president and chief executive officer of the Dallas-based OPO <u>Southwest Transplant Alliance</u>, president of Donate Life Texas, and a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) OPO Committee.

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## About AOPO

AOPO is a non-profit, national organization representing all federally-designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs). The Association represents and serves OPOs through advocacy, support and the development of activities that will maximize the availability of organs and tissues and enhance the quality, effectiveness and integrity of the donation process.

## About OPOs

OPOs are federally-designated non-profit organizations that are responsible for coordinating organ and tissue donation across the United States, bridging the gap between the generous donation of organs and tissues, and the thousands in need of these life-saving and life enhancing gifts. The federal government has designated 58 organizations in the U.S. to oversee the organ donation process. These organizations are the national stewards of the donation, and they work collaboratively with hospitals, medical professionals and their local community to build the programs, the systems and processes needed to make donation possible.