



The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care

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Press Release

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Employer Alliance recognizes two business leaders as “2014 Advocates of the Year”

ALBANY – The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care has honored Elise Van Allen and The Merriam Agency as 2014 Advocates of the Year.



*Larry Teal, board chair,
with 2014 Advocate of
the Year Elise Van Allen*

With more than 3,100 members, The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is the largest, single-issue grassroots business coalition in New York State. The Advocate of the Year Award honors individuals and businesses who have contributed their time, talent and resources to support of the organization’s grassroots activities.

Board chair Larry Teal honored **Elise Van Allen**, a real estate agent based in Albany, as 2014 Advocate of the Year. A member of the Employer Alliance since 2006, she was recognized for her willingness to articulate the personal challenges that she has faced in accessing health insurance post federal reform in an effort to educate the lawmakers and the media.

The Merriam Agency of Schenectady is the 2014 Business Advocate of the Year. Since 2001, Brian Merriam has donated his time to meet with New York State Legislators. However, his company’s support goes beyond the grassroots meetings, with various staff members also providing their expertise and support on Alliance projects.

“I am extremely proud to recognize Elise Van Allen and The Merriam Agency for their support,” Teal said. “These two individuals have demonstrated to New York lawmakers that affordable health insurance is an issue that must be taken seriously if we want small businesses to prosper and succeed in New York State.”



*Brian Merriam 2014
Business Advocate of
the Year, with
Executive Director
Pam Finch*

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The Employer Alliance for Affordable Health Care is a coalition of more than 3,000 employers and individuals from across New York, representing more than 150,000 working New Yorkers who are committed to preserving quality affordable health care.