



July 20, 2021

## Thank you for submitting a nomination for Matt Probst.

### Overview

Thank you for your 2021 Community Star Nomination. Here is a copy of the nomination for your records. If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at [bcorsaro@powerofrural.org](mailto:bcorsaro@powerofrural.org).

### Your Information

**Katherine Ortega Courtney**

*Director*

Anna Age Eight Institute, New Mexico State University

Santa Fe, New Mexico

[koc@nmsu.edu](mailto:koc@nmsu.edu)

5059201556

### Community Star Nominee: (Individual)

**Matt Probst**

*Medical Director*

El Centro Family Health

Las Vegas, New Mexico

[matthew.probst@ecfh.org](mailto:matthew.probst@ecfh.org)

5056528291

**Have Questions? Contact:**

[powerofrural.org](http://powerofrural.org) | [nosorh.org](http://nosorh.org) | [bcorsaro@powerofrural.org](mailto:bcorsaro@powerofrural.org)



Which best describes the organization your nominee is associated with?

Rural Health Network

Medical Director and Leader of the 100% San Miguel Initiative

Please describe your connection to the individual or organization you are nominating.

I work with Matthew Probst through my role as Director of the Anna Age Eight Institute. Matt is the local leader of the 100% San Miguel Initiative, which is supported by the Anna Age Eight Institute.

Please explain the individual's or organization's connection to or interaction with their State Office of Rural Health.

I am not sure about his connection to our state office of rural health.

The Community Star Recognition Program is designed to honor those whose contributions are making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication. What do you believe to be your nominee's "star" qualities? Provide examples of how your nominee demonstrates these qualities in their work and service.

Matthew Probst is a star in his community. In 2018, Matt was featured in the documentary "The Providers". That documentary has entered into the zeitgeist in New Mexico. It has sparked conversations about the unique health needs in our rural communities. In 2019, Matt began working with us through the Anna Age Eight Institute on our flagship initiative 100% New Mexico. The goal of 100% New Mexico is to ensure that 100% of county residents have access to ten vital surviving and thriving services. In early 2020, Matt was able to pull together representatives from each of the ten sectors in his local community to start a book club, and start the initiative.

And then Covid-19 hit. As a medical director, he was able to guide the medical action team in his community, which helped lead to San Miguel county having one of the lowest fatality rates, and one of the highest vaccination rates in the country.

The 2021 Community Star Selection Committee will review and evaluate nominations, making recommendations for which stories to include in this year's book and other NRHD activities based on the following merits. Please review these and select all that apply to your nominee.

Describe in as much detail as possible, examples of your nominee's work and accomplishments that correspond with your selections to the question above.

Under Matt Probst's leadership, San Miguel County in New Mexico has become one of the leaders in Rural Health in the state.

During Covid-19 Matt was able to move 100% San Miguel County forward in ways that have not been previously seen. The 100% San Miguel initiative is a data driven process focused on ensuring that 100% of residents have access to ten vital surviving and thriving services, including medical and behavioral health care, food, housing, transportation, parent supports, community schools, job training, early childhood education, and mentoring programs. 100% is focused on closing health equity gaps and eliminating barriers to services. In addition to his leadership of the medical sector, which helped San Miguel County become a leader for the rest of the state, because of the outreach he had done in the 9 other sectors including behavioral health, food, and community schools, the action teams were ready to jump into action, providing food, masks, and other necessities to the community. Through his leadership, a directory of the ten vital services was created for San Miguel County. One of his greatest gifts is that he is able to inspire people to impact their community. He demonstrates through his example

how to move forward with impact, and many others in his community have followed his lead and have had great impact in San Miguel County. He was able to spark a movement, and now 100% San Miguel County has dozens of team members and projects moving forward. In addition to all of that, he also oversees several medical clinics in multiple counties, and is the founder and director of Semillas De Salud "Grow Your Own" Health Care Professional Program which provides career pathways for youth in healthcare, leading to jobs in their own rural communities.

I can confirm that the individual or organization is making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication, and is located, working, or volunteering in a designated rural area.

Yes

I can confirm that I have notified the nominee of their nomination, and the nomination will be accepted.

Yes

How did you learn about the 2021 Community Star Recognition Program?

Word of Mouth

A colleague let us know about this program.