



Laurel County Schools Alumni Hall of Fame



Dr. Shelley Bundy Stanko 1993 South Laurel High School

Dr. Shelley Bundy Stanko, a 1993 South Laurel High School graduate, is a highly accomplished Family Medicine Physician and Healthcare Executive who has dedicated her life to uplifting her community. As the Market Chief Medical Officer of CommonSpirit Health Medical Group-Kentucky and the Facility Chief Medical Officer for Saint Joseph Hospitals-London and Berea, she expertly bridges the gap between administrative leadership and frontline clinical care. Over a distinguished career spanning more than two decades, Dr. Stanko has evolved from a dedicated family physician into a visionary medical leader, guiding regional clinical strategy, ensuring patient safety, and championing the health of southeastern Kentucky.

Dr. Stanko's path to medical excellence began at Georgetown College, where she graduated in 1997, before earning her medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in 2001. To refine her clinical skills, she completed her residency at Cabarrus Family Medicine in North Carolina, specializing in full-spectrum family care and preparing for a diverse, impactful career in medicine.

In 2004, Dr. Stanko returned to her hometown of London, Kentucky, dedicating nearly a decade to local primary care. Her clinical expertise and natural leadership led to a significant career transition in 2013, when she was appointed Chief Medical Officer at CHI Saint Joseph Health London. In this executive capacity, she has spent over a decade overseeing clinical operations, leading medical staff, and guiding the organization's overarching clinical vision. In recognition of these outstanding contributions, CommonSpirit Health honored her in 2023 with the prestigious Physician Enterprise Award, celebrating her exceptional leadership and dedication to the health system's mission.

A true lifelong learner, Dr. Stanko treats medicine as an ever-evolving discipline, continuously mastering hospital administration, medical governance, and public health policy. Between 2014 and 2019, she undertook the meticulous task of rewriting the medical staff governance plans for Saint Joseph London, empowering local physicians and establishing a higher standard of clinical accountability. Furthermore, recognizing a critical gap in emergency care, Dr. Stanko spearheaded the development of a specialized "code sepsis" rapid-response protocol in 2018—an initiative that has since saved countless lives. She also volunteers her clinical expertise as a member of the Laurel County Board of Health and serves as the Medical Director for the Laurel County Health Department.

Beyond the hospital walls, Dr. Stanko channels her energy, discipline, and heart into public service, serving as an exceptional role model for the next generation. She has played an instrumental role in the STEM Goes Red program for female students in southeast Kentucky interested in pursuing STEM careers, serving as a keynote speaker, panelist, and mentor.

An avid runner who has completed the grueling New York City Marathon, Dr. Stanko translates her personal grit directly into youth advocacy. She actively champions "Bras for Girls," a charity that ensures young female athletes in middle and high school have the gear and confidence they need to stay active in sports. Dr. Stanko also shares her heart and love for others through her dedication to her faith. As an active member of the First Baptist Church of London, she can frequently be found sharing her vocal talent on stage or serving underserved communities abroad on international mission trips.

From her origins as a local student to her rise as a premier healthcare executive, athlete, and dedicated community philanthropist, Dr. Shelley Bundy Stanko perfectly personifies the values, dedication, and spirit of community excellence that the Laurel County Schools Alumni Hall of Fame seeks to honor. Her life's work stands as a proud testament to the power of a Laurel County education and a shining inspiration for all future generations.