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UCare's Ghita Worcester named a Woman of Courage

Worcester receives Courage Award from the Women's Health Leadership TRUST for longstanding commitment to the community

MINNEAPOLIS, April 10, 2018 — UCare's Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer, was selected by the Women's Health Leadership TRUST as a 2018 Courage Award winner for a career dedicated to opening doors to care for those who need it most.

The 2018 Courage Awards celebrate Minnesota women and companies in health care who have taken a risk and demonstrated courage in navigating the unknown to help the health care industry move boldly to transform its future. Ghita was nominated for working valiantly to return UCare's service to state public program members in the recent past.



2018 Courage Award winners are being recognized at the 2018 TRUST Forum networking reception and dinner hosted by the Women's Health Leadership TRUST on Wednesday, April 11, at The Minneapolis Convention Center.

UCare President and CEO Mark Traynor says, "Ghita has helped lead UCare through a remarkable turnaround. Her commitment to UCare's members never wavered, even when facing great challenges. She earned this award for her concerted efforts over an impressive career of ensuring access to community-based health care for Minnesotans of all ages and circumstances."

Worcester brings more than 35 years of health care management experience to her role at UCare. She provides strategic direction for marketing, provider relations and

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contracting, business development and strategy, public relations, legislative, regulatory, government programs and community outreach activities. Worcester oversees the organization's federal and state health care reform efforts and policy formulation related to national and state health policy issues. She is a champion of health equity and has been instrumental in the development and implementation of UCare's strategic and operational plans.

Before joining UCare, Worcester served as Director of Policy and Operations for the University Affiliated Family Physicians (UAFFP), the management company that started UCare in 1984.

In 2015, she was recognized with a Women in Business Award by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. Worcester has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and has served on several community boards and committees.

About UCare

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, not-for-profit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 400,000 members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver:

- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-[accredited plans](#) for Minnesotans shopping on [MNSure](#).
- [Coverage for adults with disabilities](#).
- [MinnesotaCare](#) and [Prepaid Medical Assistance](#) programs across the state.
- [Medicare plans](#) with an "Excellent" NCQA rating, and a [partnership](#) with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota.
- Programs for [older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance](#), or with both [Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its [UCare Foundation](#) grants and a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for eight consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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Photo attached: Ghita Worcester, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer, UCare