



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

Greetings!

I'm pleased to welcome everyone to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorola Solutions Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award ceremony.

Each year, the Motorola Solutions Foundation chooses one non-elected state or local government official who has made outstanding contributions to the residents of their community. This year, in step with all the ways this pandemic has upended the traditional, the Foundation is honoring the work of not one, but two extraordinary public servants: Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, and Dr. Allison Arwady, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Many Chicago-area residents will recognize these two doctors from their irreplaceable leadership in our efforts to save lives and stay health amidst this pandemic. Both Dr. Ezike and Dr. Arwady, though, have been serving Illinois since long before there ever was a COVID-19. Dr. Ezike has long sought to deliver integrated health services to all people, regardless of their ability to pay, and has done so in both a direct patient caretaker and as the leader of multiple community serving organizations. She has provided inpatient care at Stroger Hospital and served as Medical Director of the Austin Health Center and Cook County Juvenile Detention Center before running the Illinois Department of Public Health. Similarly, Dr. Arwady worked as the Chicago Department of Public Health's Chief Medical Officer, as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and as a physician prior to her role as Commissioner. No matter their titles, these doctors' commitments to addressing health disparities and treating our most vulnerable populations have long distinguished their work.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Ezike and Dr. Arwady have had the weight of the people of Illinois' and Chicago's public health on their shoulders. Through their resolute leadership, impassioned calls for unity, and emphasis on equity, Dr. Ezike and Dr. Arwady have rightfully become household names for so many. Today, I share my congratulations and admiration for Dr. Ezike and Dr. Arwady on their nominations as the 2021 Excellence in Public Service honorees. May all Illinoisans find inspiration in their calls to put aside our differences and come together to improve the health of all our communities.

On behalf of the people of the state of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

Governor JB Pritzker