

Hi everyone, Secretary Kody Kinsley here.

I am thrilled to welcome you all to the John R. Larkins Award ceremony and grateful to be at a point where we can gather in person to celebrate two deeply committed and hardworking North Carolinians.

Public service is foundational to our families, communities, our livelihood, and has been proven to be increasingly vital in light of the pandemic.

I am incredibly proud and grateful for the significant contributions of April and Debra to the Department of Health and Human Services, and North Carolina as a whole. It doesn't surprise me that for the past 2 years, the recipients of the John R. Larkin Award for Justice and Equality have been honored for their invaluable service within DHHS.

Please join me in welcoming Governor Cooper, who will share more about our honorees. Congratulations April and Debra, your service and dedication are vital assets to our state.