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PRESS RELEASE

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Jennifer Drofenik Receives Under 40 Leadership Award from LeadingAge New York

GREENPORT, N.Y., September 19, 2022 – LeadingAge New York has honored Jennifer Drofenik, Peconic Landing’s Director of Health Services and Assisted Living Administrator, with its 2022 Thomas Clarke Memorial Award. Drofenik, a licensed nursing home administrator, has worked in long-term care since 2011. The recognition will be celebrated during LeadingAge’s virtual awards ceremony on Thursday, December 1.

This award, also known as the Senior Leadership Award, memorializes the work of the late Tom Clarke in long-term care, housing, and services administration. It recognizes personal integrity and professional dedication in the next generation of leaders under the age of 40, according to LeadingAge New York. The advocacy group represents over 600 not-for-profit, mission-driven, and public continuing care providers in the state.

Drofenik, a graduate of Southold High School, began her career in 2011 when she interned at Peconic Landing as part of her undergraduate studies. Upon finding her passion for the industry, she obtained her Master’s Degree in Health Care Administration. She was named Peconic Landing’s Administrator of Assisted Living in 2016 during the community’s expansion and guided the team through the opening of two new neighborhoods, Harbor South for memory support and The Bluffs for short-term rehabilitation.

Under her leadership, Harbor South became the first memory support neighborhood in New York to be recognized as a Distinguished Provider by Dementia Care Specialists and the Crisis Prevention Institute. As a Certified Dementia Practitioner, Drofenik trains new team members in the community’s person-centered care philosophy and has also introduced a caregiver support group for those who have a loved one living with cognitive impairments. Most recently, she helped to launch the community’s new respite program for caregivers.

In 2022, Drofenik was promoted to Director of Health Services at Peconic Landing. In her role, she oversees the skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation, assisted living, and memory support neighborhoods. She also manages Peconic Landing’s Quality

Assurance program and has been the community's lead point person on COVID-19 regulations and guidance over the last two and a half years.

"Jen has been an incredible asset to our organization for 11 years," said Robert J. Syron, President and CEO of Peconic Landing. "Her passion, integrity, and commitment to serving our members are truly unparalleled, and this award could not go to a more deserving person."

Drofenik is also a graduate of LeadingAge's IGNITE Leadership Academy. In 2019, she adapted the concept of the Leadership Academy to provide similar training to team members at Peconic Landing. The year-long, voluntary program is open to all team members and is geared towards developing growth in their personal and professional lives.

In addition to her role at Peconic Landing, Drofenik serves as Vice President of LeadingAge New York's Assisted Living Cabinet, helping the committee to advance public policy and promote practices that support and empower people to live fully as they age. She also serves on the board of directors for the Long Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and has participated on the committee for the Suffolk County Walk to End Alzheimer's since its inception. The Peconic Landing team has raised over \$35,000 to date for the annual event.

"It is difficult for me to put into words how dynamic, intelligent, and dedicated Jennifer is," said Greg Garrett, Peconic Landing's Chief Operating Officer and a previous recipient of the Thomas Clarke Memorial Award. "She has helped us build a culture where our members in the health center are not defined by their diagnoses, but by who they are. Peconic Landing is extremely fortunate to have such a leader."

For more information on Peconic Landing, visit www.peconiclanding.org/.

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Peconic Landing is a nationally recognized, equity-based Continuing Care Retirement Community overlooking the breathtaking Long Island Sound. Located on the North Fork on a half-mile of private Sound Beach, the organization works on a mission of being the retirement community of choice for individuals age 62 and better by encouraging our members to enjoy a vibrant lifestyle and presenting ample opportunity for members to pursue their interests and passions to the fullest. For more information on Peconic Landing, please visit www.peconiclanding.org.

