

**2019 Maryland State Council on Cancer Control's**  
**Public Health Award**

**Dr. Tamy Buckel of Shore Dermatology and**

**Dr. Lynn Bickley of Talbot Dermatology**

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States. According to CDC statistics, 82,476 new cases of melanoma were reported in 2016. For every 100,000 people, 22 new melanoma skin cases are reported. This does not take into account the non-melanoma skin cancers of basal and squamous cell carcinomas. Every year in the US, more than a million people are diagnosed with one of these two forms of skin cancer.

Kent County is the smallest county in the State of Maryland with an estimated population of 19,383. It is a rural county with a large agriculture, fishing and seafood industry. However, the county has the fifth highest rate of melanomas diagnosed between 2012 and 2016 in Maryland.

In early 2007, the Kent County Health Department's Cancer Prevention Education Screening and Treatment (CPEST) staff reached out to Brittany Lietz, the then current Miss Maryland and a melanoma survivor, for a speaking engagement. The purpose was to educate the high school students on the dangers of tanning beds and to promote sun-safe behaviors. Dr. Tamy Buckel of Shore Dermatology heard about this initiative and contacted the CPEST staff. Dr. Buckel suggested sponsoring a free skin cancer screening around Melanoma Monday. Dr. Buckel also reached out to Dr. Lynn Bickley of Talbot Dermatology. The plan was to collaborate and offer a free skin cancer-screening clinic. On May 5, 2007, these two Kent County dermatologists began donating their time and expertise to provide free annual skin cancer screening.

Over the past 13 years, they provided 571 FREE skin cancer screenings with 10% of the screenings needed further work up and treatment for cancer. They referred 134 people, and diagnosed 34 basal cells, 18 squamous cells, and 7 melanomas. To a small, rural county experiencing health disparities and has a large underserved population, this is tremendous. These two dermatologists are very deserving of this award based on their merits of reducing skin cancer mortality and positively impacting the lives of Kent County community in the past 13 years.