Janet Ayers, an alumna of the College of Public Health, was named Outstanding Alumna, at the University’s National Alumni Association Awards ceremony.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in health care administration at ETSU in 1986, she was a nursing home administrator, first at Four Oaks Health Care Center in Jonesborough, and then at Erwin Health Care. She moved to Nashville in 2006 and is currently president of the Ayers Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people of Tennessee with an emphasis on education in Decatur, Henderson, Perry and Unicoi counties.

Janet served the Tennessee Health Care Association as president and received its Distinguished Professional Service Award and Distinguished Association Service Award. A former commissioner with the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission, she is a board member of the Centerstone Research Institute, Abe’s Garden, the Nashville Symphony, the Unicoi County Economic Development Board, and the United Way of both Metropolitan Nashville and Unicoi County. In 2014, she was inducted into the Nashville YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement.

Dean Randy Wykoff said “We are pleased and honored that a graduate of our college was recognized with this extremely distinguished award. Janet represents the type of civic leader that students should want to emulate.”

The ETSU National Alumni Association is celebrating its centennial. Established in 1915, it is the university’s first and longest-operating organization. The gathering of alumni on the evening before spring Commencement dates to a candlelight ceremony to welcome the Class of 1929 “diplomats,” as graduates were then known. The Alumni Awards are part of an annual program that began in 1970. A complete view of previous award recipients can be found at www.ETSU.edu/alumni. On the campus, the Alumni Gallery in the lower level of the D. P. Culp University Center displays permanent recognition for many award recipients.