

By [Adam Benson](#) The Bulletin

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## Seeman 'truly here to live and breathe' UCFS' mission

MOHEGAN - Businessman. Administrator. Advocate.

And now, newspaper editor.

In a departure from the straightforward – and sometimes fiery – updates United Community and Family Services CEO Chuck Seeman provided to stakeholders at past annual meetings, the final one of his career took on a nostalgic bent.

“You are the united of UCFS. It has truly been my privilege to work at UCFS. It has been an incredible ride, and I thank you for it,” Seeman said to a standing ovation Tuesday night at Mohegan Sun’s Cabaret Theatre.

Seeman is retiring in January after two decades as the face of UCFS. He’ll be replaced by Jennifer Granger, its current chief operating officer.

He stitched into his remarks newspaper headlines he believed told the story of his organization’s growth over the 20 years he led it: From finally showing a surplus in 2004 after years of running in the red to cutting out any excess cost that could be found to ensure its revenue stream continued.

“For us, each and every penny mattered. We had to re-engineer the whole organization,” Seeman said. “We had to assume a level of risk that we would never think of today.”

Between 1998 and this year, UCFS saw a more than sixfold increase in its operational revenue, from just \$4.3 million 17 years ago to \$26.3 million today – a figure that includes its largest ever surplus, at \$811,529.

“I was here when Chuck assumed the role of CEO, at a time when there was much uncertainty and change going on in our organization,” said Jan Davis, UCFS’s vice president of eldercare services. “He is truly here to live and breathe our mission. He’s been a leader that has cared for the people of UCFS.”

In his honor, officials announced the creation of a Chuck Seeman Excellence in Leadership Award, which will be presented every year to an employee with at least 5 years of experience.

The first recipient was Yolanda Bowes, supervisor of community services, who was moved to tears after being surprised by the award.

“This is an incredible honor, especially tonight,” Bowes said. “I know that we have a great team of leaders coming up through the ranks who will be very deserving of this in years to come.”

Before concluding, Seeman thanked the 16,673 clients that used UCFS services in 2015 – accounting for 116,626 total visits to its facilities.

“There would be no mission to celebrate and no need for UCFS without you,” he said. “It is an honor to be your health care partner.”



MOHEGAN 10-13-2015 Chuck Seeman, president/Chief Executive Officer of United Community Family Services speaks at the annual meeting Tuesday before U. S. Representative Joe Courtney, D-2nd District was honored with the Palmer Davies Leadership Award at the Mohegan Sun Cabaret Theatre. See videos and more photos at [NorwichBulletin.com](#) John Shishmanian/[NorwichBulletin.com](#)

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