Award Winners

WPHA-WALHDAB Legislator of the Year

Senator Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse; 32nd Senate District)
Award presentation scheduled for a later date.

Sen. Shilling is an effective, well-respected legislator who was first elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2011. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served for 10 years in the Assembly. Sen. Shilling is the current Senate Minority Leader.

She has successfully used her leadership role to promote smart public health policies and has fought hard on legislative issues to help improve the health of individuals and communities across Wisconsin. She has been one of the strongest advocates in the Legislature on prevention and wellness and improving access to care for all citizens.

Based on Sen. Shilling’s hard work and leadership on tough public health issues, WPHA and WALHDAB are happy to recognize her as the Senate 2016 Legislator of the Year.

WPHA-WALHDAB Legislator of the Year

Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette; 89th Assembly District)

Rep. Nygren is a veteran, policy-driven lawmaker who was first elected to the State Assembly in 2006. As the current co-chair of the Legislature’s powerful Joint Finance Committee, he has been instrumental in shaping the state budget over the last several legislative sessions.

Rep. Nygren has also been personally impacted by the state’s growing heroin and opiate addiction epidemic. He has turned his family’s experience with this public health crisis into action through his policy work on the Heroin Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE) initiative – a cutting-edge legislative package aimed at combating heroin and other opiate abuse.

Thanks to Rep. Nygren’s commitment to critical public health policy, and specifically his exceptional work on the HOPE Initiative, WPHA and WALHDAB are pleased to name him as the Assembly 2016 Legislator of the Year.
WPHA Recognizes

Presidential Citation

Kristen Grimes, MAOM, MCHES
Senior Project Manager, Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin

The Presidential Citation is given to an individual who has made WPHA a stronger organization through their service to the Association. This year’s Presidential Citation goes to Kristen Grimes, Senior Project Manager with Children’s Health Alliance. In addition to Kristen’s recent service to WPHA as a strong Public Affairs Committee Co-chair, she has been a past board member, involved on the Annual Conference planning committee, as well as Workforce Development Committee.

Kristen is to be commended for her advocacy leadership around her current work on securing reimbursement for prevention services. Her leadership in bringing public health, healthcare, community based organizations and other important sectors together to move forward professions that can help expand the public health workforce is noteworthy. Kristen’s contribution to the field of public health and to our professional association deserves this recognition.

Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Lilliann M. Paine, MPH
Program Manager, Center for Urban Population Health

In her current role of program manager for the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) program, Ms. Paine is the central force in guiding and empowering the program’s four Collaboratives. She leads engagement, technical assistance and training efforts for these groups, as well as troubleshoots and removes barriers to progress. The Collaboratives, located in Milwaukee, Beloit, Kenosha, and Racine, would not be able to do their work without her guidance, which affects change throughout southeastern Wisconsin. In her previous role as Health Abstractor for the City of Milwaukee Health Department, Ms. Paine reviewed and interpreted data related to fetal mortality and made recommendations to improve clinical outcomes. The Department has improved its service to the people of Milwaukee based, in part, by her work there.

Ms. Paine holds a deep conviction that we need to build community-based approaches to improve health equity and social justice for low income and disenfranchised populations. As a champion for health equity and social justice, she teaches the urgency of prioritizing how race and racism impacts health. This means uncovering institutionalized racism and biases; it means doing the difficult work of teaching all communities of its impact; and it means finding an alternative path, based in the community, to meet health objectives while embracing equity.

Among her successes as LIHF program manager, Ms. Paine has developed LIHF Learning Institutes that hosted renowned experts on coalition action theory, racial equity, and collective impact. She also built capacity in leadership skills such as shared governance, communications, budgeting, financial monitoring and sustainability.

It is clear that Ms. Paine was nominated for the Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Award for both her work in Woman’s and Family Health Promotion, and in Health Equity and Social Justice Promotion. That she has served with excellence in both specializations makes her a true superstar in southeast Wisconsin, and an extremely well qualified candidate for this award. As one of the region’s top advocates in Health Promotion, it is an honor for WPHA to recognize Ms. Lilliann Paine as this year’s recipient of the WPHA 2016 Excellence in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Award.
Excellence in Public Health Media Award
Mark Treinen
Wausau Daily Herald

Marathon County has had a long, collegial relationship with the Wausau Daily Herald (WDH). The two have partnered to assure that WDH readers and others are informed of both current and upcoming public health issues affecting their community. The focus is on health promotion and disease prevention, with topics ranging from breastfeeding and early childhood development, health issues and parenting, to rabies, blastomycosis, H1N1, and the health of the Marathon County community. WDH has also been instrumental in providing excellent risk communications in times of public health emergencies.

WDH uses a variety of approaches, from Question and Answers on legalization of marijuana, to interviews with health experts (the “Building Blocks” interviews on child health issues). The use of video and a conversational approach to subjects enhance the attraction and approachability of subject matter that might not otherwise engage the intended audience. Further, WDH deals factually and objectively with controversial topics, most recently the growth in substance abuse in the community.

From the staff at the Marathon County Health Department, “We know they always need to ask tough questions and present all sides of the story. We are thankful that they are partners in bringing good, evidenced-based information to the residents in our communities.”

Examples of the Wausau Daily Herald’s excellent coverage of public health issues may be seen by accessing their website and searching on the topic of “public health” at http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/ .
Excellence in Public Health Research Award

Nancy Young, Dustin Young & Audrey Boerner
Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc.

Under the auspices of the Institute for Wisconsin’s Health, Nancy Young, Audrey Boerner, and Dustin Young worked with 15 local and tribal health departments in the Western region to complete a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on Industrial Sand Mining in Western Wisconsin. Their goal was to provide local and tribal health departments with a HIA that could be used in discussions with decision makers about potential health effects of existing and proposed industrial sand facilities.

The National Coordinating Center for Public Health Systems and Services research (PHSSR) defines this important core public health work as research that “identifies the implementation strategies that work, building evidence to support decision-making across the public health sphere.” Standard 10.2 from the Public Health Accreditation Board (Promote understanding and use of the current body of research results, evaluations, and evidence-based practices) is required to be met if departments are looking at voluntary accreditation and describes local health department best practice. This HIA provided our health departments with the opportunity to engage in PHSSR and improve our capacity to meet national standards.

The project was possible because of a PEW grant. The grant proposal was completed and submitted by Nancy Young with input from local and tribal health departments. Health departments were designated as Level 1 (those who had local pending policies related to Industrial Sand Mining) or Level 2 (those who had an interest in the issue because of what was occurring in their area).

Once the grant was received, training on Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was offered to all Level 1 and Level 2 partners. Representatives of the industry were also at the training which allowed for some open dialogue and better understanding of the issue. As the project moved forward, Nancy, Audrey and Dustin met regularly with the health department partners asking for input and feedback, keeping health department partners engaged and informed. The result of their work is a detailed, thorough HIA report.

This group of “researchers” deserve this award because of their open and unbiased approach to a controversial issue, the excellence with which they carried out the project, and their courage in staying true to the purpose of the project and standing by the findings. It can be challenging for local and tribal health departments to approach controversial and complicated environmental health issues in their communities. The HIA report truly provides health departments with factual, comprehensive information on industrial sand mining enabling informed discussion with policy-makers and the public.

Distinguished Service to Public Health

Matt Crespin, MPH, RDH
Associate Director, Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin

Matt Crespin began to blaze his trail when he selected the dental hygiene program at Marquette University. After a 4-year career in a suburban private dental office, Matt felt his passion was destined for more. He ventured out and found Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin, a statewide organization devoted to improving the health of children among underserved populations. He remembered the tooth decay he saw in the mouths of children from his Marquette experience, and realized this is where he was meant to be.
On any given day, thousands of children attending school across Wisconsin have active tooth decay and are in need of dental care. Matt rolled up his sleeves and began to build relationships with the state Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin Dental Association, school districts, health systems, medical schools, and community leaders to grow the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition and become a strong voice for dental care.

Matt’s unique abilities to build relationships, mobilize a plan-of-action and make things happen led to making dental care for kids a priority. Matt is making a difference as a dental professional, public health leader and Wisconsin resident. The title of the first grant Matt wrote, Healthy Teeth = Healthy Kids, sums up his passion and mission in life.

During his career, Matt achieved a master’s degree in Public Health. His public speaking ability is evident by the numerous presentations he has given in the national oral health arena. His personal accomplishment as a leader is confirmed by his roles as chair of the national sealant workgroup within the Children’s Dental Health Project and elected trustee for the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, District VII. Matt’s commitment to community service is evidenced by being named the Young Hispanic Professional of Greater Milwaukee by the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee in 2009 and receiving the Distinguished Alumnus in Dental Hygiene Award from Marquette University.

Matt blazed the trail for men to enter the dental hygiene field when historically dominated by women. In 2007 Matt was featured in Modern Hygienist magazine as an example for other men to follow. Today, Matt serves as one of the very first men to be elected as trustee for the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. Matt Crespin truly deserves the WPHA Distinguished Service to Public Health award.

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Distinguished Service to Public Health

Jeanne B. Hewitt, PhD, RN
UW-Milwaukee

Dr. Jeanne Hewitt is an experienced nurse and PhD researcher and teacher in environmental and community health nursing. She has taught at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee since 1992 and has been a lecturer at other academic settings such as the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She has developed and taught many courses over the years in environmental, epidemiology, community and public health at all levels of education and in multiple departments of the university (nursing, school of public health, college of engineering), and remains actively engaged in the development of undergraduate nurses to learn public health nursing through a course she is currently revising and will teach entitled Population Health. Dr. Hewitt was integral to the creation and development of the School of Public Health at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee from 2008-2012, serving on the steering committee, chairing the search and screen committee, serving as a member of the epidemiology and biostatistics space planning committee, the communications committee and the augmented executive committee.

She served as the Associate Director of the UW-Milwaukee Institute of Environmental Health and is currently the Director of the Community Outreach and Engagement Core for the UW Milwaukee Children's Environmental Health Sciences Core Center.
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Dr. Hewitt has conducted years of impactful research in epidemiology, occupational health and public health such as a current study, “the Victory Garden Initiative” with two elementary schools in Milwaukee along with Renew Environmental Public Health Advocates.

Dr. Hewitt has been a consultant on environmental and public health locally, nationally and internationally. She has published numerous articles on a wide variety of public health topics. Through several simultaneous endeavors including teaching, research, speaking and consulting, Dr. Jeanne Hewitt has been and continues to be a passionate leader in population and public health, making a considerable positive difference in the lives of nurses and the public.

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**Carol Graham Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Henry A. Anderson, MD**  
**WI Department of Health Services**

Dr. Henry “Andy” Anderson is the 2016 recipient of the Carol Graham Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Anderson is a true and trusted fixture in the public health community. He has 36 years of experience working at the state health department in Wisconsin. He’s been the face of Wisconsin public health in numerous national and international forums, including serving on an advisory board on Radiation and Worker Health; the Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine; Fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and on the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials’ Environment Policy Committee. Dr. Anderson has served in numerous leadership roles, including as the president of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). During his tenure at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, he has served as principal investigator for countless grants, including most recently Environmental Public Health Tracking, Building Resilience Against Climate Effects, Asthma, and many others. Just like Carol Graham, Dr. Anderson has inspired an entire generation of public health workers. He has served as a mentor for hundreds of successful epidemiologists, toxicologists, researchers, and other public health professionals. Dr. Anderson has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health research with his prolific publishing record of over 270 publications (and still counting). Dr. Anderson’s career-long contributions will continue to shape the face of public health in Wisconsin for years to come.