

Recognizing Excellence: Nominate A Colleague For An Award

In Wisconsin, we are privileged to have many excellent audiologists, speech-language pathologists and scientists who contribute with high quality service and add value to the body of knowledge for those with communication and swallowing disorders. Many of us work with individuals whose accomplishments shine and who motivate us to do more and giving us pride to be part of professions that have such vital importance to people. Many of these great contributors quietly go about their work with little public acclaim. Why not step forward and acknowledge a colleague's excellence with a nomination for one of the awards offered through your state association?

You have the opportunity, each year, to nominate a colleague for the following awards:

Honors of the Association recognizes distinguished contributions to the field of communicative disorders and is the highest honor awarded by WSHA-P.

WSHA Salutes Outstanding Service is for any individual, WSHA-P member or nonmember, group of individuals or organization that contributes to the field of communicative disorders.

Wisconsin's Nominee for the DiCarlo Award acknowledges advancement of knowledge in clinical practice as evidenced by significant recent accomplishment within the past three years in speech pathology and/or audiology.

Wisconsin's Nominee for the Van Hattum Award is for an individual who demonstrates outstanding commitment and specific contributions to the delivery of speech language pathology and/or audiology services in the school setting.

Wisconsin's Nominee for the Kleffner Award is intended for an individual who has made outstanding contributions to clinical science and practice in communication science and disorders over a 20 year or longer period. The contributions may have been in clinical service, clinical research or any other activity, which has promoted excellence in clinical services.

Nominating a colleague is a simple process of sending a resume and a written rationale that describes how the criteria for an award are met to the Election and Honors Committee Chair. Please refer to the WSHA-P website: www.wisha.org or call the WSHA-P office (800-545-0640) for a detailed description of each award. Award nominations are a genuine way of appreciating the work a colleague does. This simple act tells the nominee that you've noticed what s/he does and that you value that professional contribution. The Awards Committee chooses from the nominees the best recipient of each award. The best way to assure that your work place and your area of the state are represented among award recipients is to nominate a colleague.

Awards not only honor the individual that receives one, but also bring attention to the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and the university programs that research and educate in these areas. Often, we are humble about our achievements and those of our workmates. The satisfaction we feel in improving lives seems enough reward. However, taking time to bring attention to our accomplishments can also contribute to public understanding about what speech-language pathologists and audiologists do. **Are we saying that it's your professional duty to nominate someone for an award? The answer is a resounding YES!**

You may believe that it's necessary to be part of an inner circle in order to nominate for an award...absolutely not. Awards are open to all Wisconsin speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication and swallowing scientists. The Awards Committee encourages many nominations and has a goal of receiving at least one nomination for each award from each area of the state. Please don't leave this important task to others...be the difference—nominate a colleague now.

Nominations are due by March 30 and should be emailed or mailed to the WSHA-P Office, wsha@wisha.org, 1360 Regent Street, #154, Madison, WI 53715.

Promote the professions in your workplace

Each year a Wisconsin Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist of the Year are selected from letters submitted by consumers of these services. WSHA-P has advertised these awards in a few newspaper ads in major Wisconsin papers. With the high cost of advertisement, these ads are necessarily limited and may not be seen by all consumers who have received valuable communication disorder services and who might want to recognize the individual providing that service.

This year, we are asking all WSHA-P members to place a poster advertising these awards in your workplace. Please cut out or print the poster enclosed in this issue and post it in a prominent place for your consumers to notice. **Letters from consumers are due by March 30**—there's no time to delay.

In order for this to serve as a successful publicity campaign for speech-language pathology and audiology, ALL WSHA-P members must participate. The work we do is important...please promote our professions and give consumers in your workplace a chance to recognize a colleague or you!

Wisconsin Audiologist of the Year is an honor awarded to a Wisconsin audiologist who has been recognized by audiology consumers as providing outstanding professional service.

Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathologist of the Year is an honor awarded to a Wisconsin speech-language pathologist who has been recognized by speech-language pathology consumers as providing outstanding professional service.