The Gold Nuggets 2013 of Public Health

2013 Annual Awards Banquet
**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH EQUITY (NEW IN 2013)**

**RECIPIENT: LORENZO OLIVAS, US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE REGION VIII**

Lorenzo Olivas is the Minority Health Consultant for the Office of Minority Health, US Department of Health and Human Services in Region VIII. Region VIII covers the States of Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and Colorado. As the Regional Minority Health Consultant, Lorenzo works with Federal, State, Tribal and Community-based organizations to address minority health concerns and the development of initiatives to support the goal of eliminating health disparities. Lorenzo has been a significant and steadfast advocate for health equity in our region and is particularly revered as a voice for those most impacted by health disparities. While no person alone is responsible for advancing health equity in Colorado, he has certainly been a consistent and passionate leader in our state. For example, Lorenzo’s leadership in the Culture of Data Conference has moved Colorado and the region ahead in using data to improve the health of vulnerable populations.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**RECIPIENT: KRIS WENZEL, FORMERLY WITH CENTRAL COLORADO AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER**

Kris was a champion of life-long learning and continuing education. She modeled servant leadership in her work and personal life and was a highly respected humble public health nurse leader. Her nursing and public health career spanned from 1972 to 2013. She was a key player in many professional nursing and community programs that have impacted the field of nursing, medicine, and health care nationally and in Colorado. She mentored scores of nursing, medical students as well as young adults who expressed an interest in health care careers. Kris served as the Executive Director of the Central Colorado Area Health Education Center from 2001 to 2013. Kris passed away on August 2, 2013 and will be forever remembered as a Colorado Public Health and Nursing hero. She touched the hearts and lives of many of us and countless others working in public health and health care across Colorado.
Sabin Award
RECIPIENT: CARL LARSON, RIHEL
“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” ~Sir Isaac Newton.
We are all developed into greater individuals and professionals by learning and developing together and learning from those we have met along the way. Carl Larson is one of those people who has touched many of us through the development of public and environmental health professionals into great leaders. Carl has been on the faculty for the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership’s (RIHEL) Advanced Leadership Training Program (ALTP) since its inception in 1998. During his tenure Carl has been instrumental in developing more than 600 professionals in the fields of public and environmental health into leaders who have gone on to impact the lives and health of communities throughout Colorado as well as Wyoming and New Mexico. Carl’s work, research and instruction each highlight that true collaboration will always lead to better motivation and results than the work of individuals. the health and environmental issues that have faced Colorado communities. Carl’s impact on public health in Colorado is immeasurable! Colorado public health can see further as we stand on the shoulders of this humble giant.

Award for Technical Innovation in Public Health
RECIPIENT: DAN HENDERSHOTT, SUMMIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Dan Hendershott has worked with Summit County Public Health for nine years. During this time, he has exhibited many unique talents and innovation. Dan is passionate and dedicated to the messages of Public Health and is creative in promoting them to the community. In 2012, Dan created the Summit County Public Health Mythbusters series for our local television station, SCTV. In this series Dan and the public health staff explored seven myths in public health including: vaccines, fluoride, radon, sugar sweetened drinks, dietary fat, bedbugs, and car seats. Each episode included interviews on the street that exemplified public opinion regarding these issues. Not only are these episodes being shown locally, they are also now on YouTube. Dan’s creatively with this project has allowed Public Health to be visible in a very entertaining way, while presenting the importance of evidence-based practice to the local community and beyond.

Roy Cleere Distinguished Service Award
RECIPIENT: CHRISTOPHER URBINA
Dr. Chris Urbina, Chris to most, is a sincere and legitimate public health leader. He made an extraordinary contribution to the field of public health in Colorado during his tenure as Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). He had already provided significant service to the state in his role as Director of Public Health for Denver Health and Hospitals, president of the Public Health Directors of Colorado (now, CALPHO), and president of CPHA (September 2010-February 2011). As the first Executive Director with direct public health training in recent memory, Chris elevated public health to a new level within and outside of the agency. Chris is a catalyst for forward-thinking change in our public health system and has supported and encouraged leaders at all levels. He is a vocal leader for prevention and action, and played a visible and
substantive role in local public health. He led seasoned public health professionals to think differently about their work and challenged many to work smarter and harder. Chris exemplifies the characteristics of a leader in public health.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION-MOTIVATED PERSON (CHAMP) AWARD
RECIPIENT: RUTH POPIEL, JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

In her Administrative Coordinator position at Jefferson County Public Health, Ruth serves as an executive assistant to the Community Health Services Division Director and provides administrative support to other staff in all departments. In the 12 years Ruth has served in this position, she has received many recognitions from department staff for assisting with a variety of tasks. She has assumed responsibility for oversight of CPR training and Language Line Services for JCPH staff. She works collaboratively with the Administrative Services Division to assure health care providers are licensed in the state and obtain NPI and Medicaid numbers as indicated. Ruth is recognized by her workers for her commitment to quality work and her ability to deliver that work in a timely manner. She has been a CPHA member since starting at JCPH and is truly a CHAMP.

AWARD FOR LEGISLATIVE EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENT: SENATOR JEANNE NICHOLSON, STATE OF COLORADO

Jeanne Nicholson, an ardent supporter of public health and citizens of Colorado, and Colorado Senator for Gilpin County, moved legislation that supports the Community Oral Health Grants Program (SB13-261), held a Community Safety Forum in Conifer as well other local town meetings (e.g. Golden, Superior), and promoted jobs for Coloradoans in the Keep Jobs in Colorado Act, a measure to ensure more Colorado businesses and workers benefit from state contracts (HB 13-1292) to strengthen Colorado’s economy. She has stated, “The best way to serve the people I represent is by listening to their needs and priorities. Please let me know what is on your mind so together we can create a better Colorado!” Her enthusiastic interest in hearing the needs and voices of local residents as well as promoting a safe and healthy place for Coloradoans was shown by the legislation she supported and local efforts she promoted. Jeanne Nicholson, a long-time member of the Colorado Public Health Association, should be applauded for her tireless local community and state legislative efforts. Thanks to Jeanne for all she has done for legislation in Colorado.

EMERGING LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH
RECIPIENT: ALISON GRACE BUI, COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

In response to Colorado’s public health improvement efforts, Alison Grace was hired in 2011 to ensure that a comprehensive set of public health indicators be made available. She wasted little time acquiring vast amounts of required statistics; authored detailed resources concerning their use; and collaborated to create the Colorado Health Indicators website. This simple name does an injustice to the tenacity, creativity, organization, and dedication displayed by Alison Grace during its creation. She has become the trusted source of guidance.
and support in the use of health and environmental statistics, often putting health data into the hands of communities for whom none were previously available. Per one esteemed colleague: “Alison Grace is one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated public health professionals I have had the pleasure of working with. She has a remarkable passion for public health and is willing and eager to share that knowledge and passion with others. She is a true expert in her field of work and continually demonstrates a personal commitment in all she does. She is a true asset to public health practice in the State of Colorado.” Alison Grace’s qualities and hard work render her a model public health professional whose emergence as a leader in this field is undeniable, laudable, and worthy of the highest recommendation for this award.

**JOHN MUTH AWARD**

**RECIPIENT: BURKE FISHBURN, HEALTH PRAGMATICS, LTD.**

There is no one more deserving of the John Muth Award than Burke. He serves as the Membership Director on the CPHA Board, and stepped in when the previous Director left unexpectedly. Burke saw a need for mentors in the Colorado Public Health Association and put into action his plan to start the mentoring program, and with dedicated effort, he made this a reality. He is a person whom everyone knows at least by name due to his passion for public health and commitment to building the mentorship program. It is rare to receive a personal e-mail nowadays, yet Burke consistently checks in with mentors / mentees and sincerely is interested in their well-being. Those of us who have participated in the mentorship program and will always be grateful to Burke for his guidance. The number of mentees has tripled this year over last year due to the value this program brings to mentees. The value is also there for mentors, whose knowledge and experiences the mentee respects and whose wisdom and know-how can support the professional growth and development of the mentee. The American Public Health Association (APHA) highlighted this program in its April 2013 edition of The Nation’s Health. This award is a perfect way to thank Burke for starting a program desperately needed in Colorado.

**MOST INNOVATIVE PROJECT**

**RECIPIENT: GAIL STOLTZFUS CUSTER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

Gail Stoltzfus, RN deserves the Most Innovative Project Award for her Free Sports Physicals Project. She lives in a small, mountain county with limited access to care. Many of our residents are either uninsured or underinsured, and they cannot afford the physicals which are necessary for their children to participate in intermural sports. This year, Gail made it possible for 115 Middle and High School students to receive free sports physicals. This has been very positively received by students, parents, and school personnel alike. It has also boosted the public relations for our medical providers who were facing criticism from the community for not having community projects.
Lillian Wald Award
RECIPIENT: KINDRA MULCH, KIT CARSON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Though not a native of Colorado (she was born and raised in Kansas), Kindra has embraced the Colorado spirit for 30+ years. She has been intimately involved in agriculture (working with her husband on the family farm) and a member of a small rural town located in eastern Colorado. Kindra spent more than a decade on the Colorado State Board of Public Health, always aware of her role as a public health nurse and using that title to inject the nursing perspective. She took this position very seriously, rarely missing a meeting and spending countless hours prior to meetings reading preparatory materials. She influenced many of the recent changes in public health including medical marijuana and public health law. She is a subject matter expert in many areas, especially Robert’s Rules of Order. She has brought to light the benefit of having solid relationships with our Human Service colleagues which allows for nurses to do a better job providing services to our communities.

New Public Health Nurse of the Year
RECIPIENT: MELANIE ROGERS, JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

With only three years of experience in the field, Melanie Rogers has already demonstrated great aptitude as a public health nurse and is an emerging leader. Her interest and focus are in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, especially for youth, which have greatly benefited several new initiatives recently implemented in our family planning clinic. As part of a marketing plan to increase our outreach to teens in Jefferson County, Melanie developed the idea for the ‘Go Ask TISH’ text line. Since its launch in February, over 300 texts have been received. Melanie also created and stars in a video series called, “Sex Ed with Mel... in 30 minutes or less”. Videos are posted on the JCPH website, YouTube, and recently featured on the Beforeplay.org Facebook page and website. Videos topics include “How to use a condom”, “STDs”, and “Birth control methods”. Thus far, she has created seven videos which have been viewed over 1500 times. These undertakings have been in addition to her regular responsibilities of seeing clients in our family planning clinic, case management, and outreach of the HIV program. Melanie’s enthusiasm, positive attitude, and passion for her work have made her a wonderful asset to our agency.

PHNAC Award for Excellence
RECIPIENT: CAROL MCDONALD, DENVER PUBLIC HEALTH

Carol is passionate about public health and service to the Denver and Colorado communities. She has fostered and implemented programs for nursing students from all over Colorado to acquire rotations in Denver Public Health clinics, thus increasing awareness of Public Health as a nursing specialty. She manages and participates in outreach programs to provide ongoing education to nurse consultants and daycare employees. These programs have increased awareness of immunization regulations and needs, and promoted increased vaccine coverage of our youngest citizens. She is a mentor who encourages all public health nurses to actively participate in every aspect of public health nursing. And, Carol never forgets that Public Health is really about the individual people who live and work in our communities.
ARMY OF ONE
RECIPIENT: HOLLIE SCHOPP, RIO BLANCO PUBLIC HEALTH

Holli has been an LPN for over twenty years at Rio Blanco County. Holli has great empathy and respect for clients and co-workers. She has a calming essence about her. Clients want to return on a regular basis to see her and her sense of humor is contagious. We admire Holli for her role at the county and hope she'll give us may more years of service. I look forward to her continued growth because she is the face of Rio Blanco County Public Health.

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AWARD
THE RECIPIENT: AMY PATSCH, INDEPENDENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTANT

Amy Patsch is a highly respected, talented, and skilled MPH professional who has been providing education, technical assistance, and leadership in public health since 2008. Her work includes but is not limited to: international work with CURE International, conducting a needs assessment and evidenced-based research to revamp tobacco cessation programs and subsequent program management for Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, working as Immunization Coordinator with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Colorado Immunization Information System, Aurora, and serving as an AmeriCorps member - Family Practice Health Aide early in her career. Over the past two years she has provided consulting services to the Tri-County Health Care Program for children with special needs and was instrumental in the development of a grant funded program that will impact the care of children who are discharged from a Neonatal Intensive Care unit (NICU) to facilitate the transition of their care from the NICU to home and family care. Words cannot describe her passion for public health that is demonstrated in her work ethic and attention to detail. Amy is a gift to public health and provides leadership and education in a very transparent selfless manner.

PHIR2013.SCHED.ORG/MOBILE