



News Release

July, 2010

National Staff Development and Training Association (NSDTA) Announces its 2010 Training Award Winners.

The Quality Training Award will be given to Technical Assistance (TA) Systems Builders Collaborative led by Rocio Abundis-Rodriguez and Ellen Gannett. This award is given to a public human services training program that successfully develops and implements a cutting edge, innovative training approach or a variation of a traditional process, procedure, or practice. Ms. Abundis-Rodriguez is the Executive Director of ASAP Connect, a program that links out-of-school time programs with TA providers throughout California (see website www.afterschoolconnect.org). Dr. Ellen Gannett is the Director of the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, a national action research program that provides research, evaluation, technical assistance, consultation and specialized training on afterschool programs (www.niost.org). During the past year, both of these programs partnered on seeking funding from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and leading an initiative to bring together representatives from the nation's leading system's builders. The TA Systems Builders Collaborative has promoted communication, collaboration and resource sharing, including the establishment of a website for posting TA and training resources. A model of TA in afterschool settings has been developed and significant discussions pertaining to the evaluation of TA and training has emerged.

The Distinguished Services in Training Award is given to an individual that demonstrates outstanding skills as an adult educator in public human services through use of creative approaches and ensures effective transfer of learning occurs. This year the award will be given to Jim Still-Pepper. Mr. Still-Pepper has written and presented his innovative training curricula to child welfare caseworkers, supervisors, and foster parents. In the past 10 years, he has trained over 350 staff and supervisory level trainings and since 2004, over 200 foster parent trainings. His book "Learning Bridges" is a practical and fun resource to help you create deep and meaningful conversations with those you interact with.

The Career Achievement Award will be given to Elizabeth (Betsy) Keefer Smalley. Ms. Keefer Smalley has devoted her professional life to promoting permanent families for abused and neglected children, and she has pioneered training as a primary means of moving the adoption and foster care systems to address and eliminate placement instability. She has consistently provided high quality training, curriculum development and leadership in the field of public human services training during almost 40 years of service. As Director of the adoption and foster care training component of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Ms. Keefer Smalley works with a large constituency of regional training managers, county agency directors, the Ohio state department, and a large pool of adoption and foster care trainers.

The Awards will be presented at the NSDTA's annual Professional Development Institute on August 31st in Boston. <http://nsdta.aphsa.org/>

NSDTA is an affiliate of American Public Human Services Association. www.aphsa.org