
2004 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award: Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH

Nominated by Kneka Smith, RDH BS

It is such an honor to be here to present the 2004 Distinguished Service Award to a person I have personally grown to admire as a leader in our family of dental public health. This individual has a unique set of knowledge, skills, and experiences that have equipped her to impact the systems that enhance the oral health of our nation.

She is a tireless worker who understands the value of engaging a diverse group of people to address complex issues. She is inclusive in her decision-making process and is able to effectively manage the diverse and sometimes challenging personalities she encounters on a weekly basis. She can envision the future and how those systems can be better than the systems of today, while simultaneously juggling far too many projects for one person.

Her experiences as a dental hygienist, state dental director, as an educator at the University of Colorado, and as a women's health champion through a state breast cancer program place Ms. Beverly Isman as uniquely qualified to accept the position as the cooperative agreement manager of ASTDD.

Her service in this capacity has been truly amazing. She has been involved in initiatives focused on Head Start, workforce, leadership, special health care needs, clinics, mentoring, training, communications, and a host of other issues affecting the dental public



Kneka Smith, Beverly Isman, and Dr. Lynn Mouden

health system at the national, state, and local levels.

Having worked with and observed Bev in many ways, she has inspired me as an example of what one person can do in dental public health as a catalyst

of change. It is with great pleasure that I introduce my friend and colleague as the recipient of the 2004 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award: Ms. Beverly Isman.

Remarks on Receiving the 2004 ASTDD Distinguished Service Award

Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH

I am totally awed and surprised by this award. As many of you may know, I prefer to be a "worker bee with vision" rather than up on a stage like

this or in a prominent leadership position. When Lynn caught me in the hall before we came in to the luncheon and told me he was going to ask me to say

a few words, I thought I was supposed to be reporting on our workforce workshop. Now this is something very different!

I'd like to thank ASTDD for providing me with the opportunity since 2001 to serve as a consultant, functioning as the cooperative agreements manager for the association. It is the best job I've ever had! I have the opportunity to work as a peer with all of the state dental directors, consultants, funders, and partner organizations. As a previous state dental director, I know that being a state dental director

these days is one of the most difficult jobs in the country, and I applaud all of you for your creativity and diligence in working to improve the oral health of disenfranchised populations. This award really reflects the distinguished service that all of you provide. Working with ASTDD has provided me with an avenue to use my best skills, work from my home office, play with my cats, and more freedom to

travel. So, I tend to drag my husband, Bob, around to exotic (and not so exotic) places while he puts up with me doing conference calls from a cottage in Hawaii, asking for IT support over the phone when I'm in New Hampshire, and writing grants on my laptop while sitting on the airport floor. Thank you again for your trust in my abilities and for the privilege of serving all of you.

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