

## 2003 ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award: Diane Brunson, RDH, MPH

**Nominated by M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH**

It has been said that only two things in life are certain—death and taxes. I would like to add a third to the list, and that is change. Nothing stays the same and change is always with us. That has certainly been true for the past several years with regard to the ASTDD leadership. Individuals have been willing to take leadership roles, when other circumstances have intervened and for many reasons they have been unable to complete their terms. Some have had the luxury of acquiring experience through other roles in the association such as director, secretary/treasurer, or president-elect. Others have had to step up with less experience.

Diane Brunson certainly has performed in the latter category. While she did serve ASTDD as secretary/treasurer, her term as president-elect was not to be. Her predecessor resigned to accept a position in the private sector and she was asked to move directly to the office of president. She did so with grace and charm and a resolute sense of duty. She completed her two-year term as ASTDD president in exemplary fashion and continues to serve ASTDD as immediate past-president. For her continued service to ASTDD in numerous roles and for service above and beyond the



*Dr. Dean Perkins, Diane Brunson, Dr. Lynn Douglas Mouden*

normal call of duty, I nominate Diane Brunson, RDH, MPH, for the ASTDD

Outstanding Achievement Award.

## Remarks on Receiving the 2003 ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award

**Diane Brunson, RDH, MPH**

At the risk of sounding a bit like the Academy Awards, this honor needs to be shared with many people in this room. No one gets to this podium without a little help from their friends! In her presentation on Monday, Dr.

Dolores Malvitz cited a quotation that, to paraphrase, was, "Good surveillance doesn't mean we always make the right decision, but it reduces the chances of making the wrong ones." I would like to change that to say, "Sup-

portive colleagues do not mean I always make the right decisions, but I can guarantee that it reduces the number of wrong ones!"

I feel honored to be associated with the Association of State and Territorial

Dental Directors and the dental public health community. I truly believe that it is because of this association, and the opportunities to know, follow, and emulate many of you, that I have been

able to accomplish much of what I have done so far in Colorado and at the national level.

So, thank you, the membership, past and present, for your mentorship,

friendship, and support; and as I continue my dental public health career, thank you for this inspiring and reinforcing recognition along the way.