**SHAPE America Southern District Award Recipients 2017**

**Donna L. Dunaway Medal - Karen J. Dowd**

The Donna L. Dunaway Medal (The Dunaway Medal) is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member by SHAPE America - Southern District. The Dunaway Medal honors the professional life and career-long contributions to SHAPE America - Southern District made by member and long-term Executive Director, Donna L. Dunaway. In that spirit, the Donna L. Dunaway honors one individual each year who has made significant and sustained contributions and given meritorious service to SHAPE America Southern District over a significant period of time. The 2017 recipient of the Donna L. Dunaway Medal is Karen J. Dowd, professor emeritus in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Central Oklahoma and former executive director of SHAPE Florida and the Oklahoma Association for HPERD.

Graduating from high school in LeRoy, New York, Karen traveled across country to attend Texas Woman’s University where she received a degree in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in 1969. It was there that Karen began her 52-years of continuous membership in AAHPERD/SHAPE America and Southern District. She later received a Master of Education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Doctorate of Education from Oklahoma State University.

Karen J. Dowd is a SHAPE America and Southern District member extraordinaire. She served as President of the Oklahoma Association in 1981, Southern District AAHPERD in 1994, and President of AAHPERD (now SHAPE America) in 1996-1997. In addition, Karen has served on many state, regional, and national professional committees during her professional career. She is a Founding and Charter Member of the Society for Association Management (SAM) - a professional contribution of which she is most proud. Karen has been an active and steady voice for the membership of our profession for decades. Dowd possesses the ability to manage a healthy balance between creativity and analytical processing. We are all stronger and better because of her visionary leadership.

Recently, Karen was awarded the Peter Everett Honor Award by SHAPE Florida and, she was inducted as one of the Inaugural Class of 125 persons into the Luminary Society of the University of Central Oklahoma in 2015, commemorating the visionary leaders since the 1890 inception of the university. In addition, Dowd was honored with the naming of the Karen J. Dowd Endowed Scholarship at the UCO. Karen is a Fellow in the North American Society of HPERS and the recipient of the Honor Award from AAHPERD, Southern District and Oklahoma AHPERD.

Southern District of SHAPE America is proud to present its most prestigious award, the Donna L. Dunaway Medal for 2017 to Karen J. Dowd. In keeping with Karen’s decades long tradition as she concludes a presentation... *‘If perchance you learned nothing else from this presentation, let it be known that Jell-O was invented in LeRoy, New York in 1897’.*

**Honor Award - Hollie Newnam**

Hollie Newnam, Executive Director of SHAPE Florida, holds a PhD in Physical Education from Florida State University (FSU), an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Nova University and a B.A. in Physical Education from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Hollie was an elementary school principal in Volusia County, Florida, assistant professor in the Sport Management, Recreation and Physical Education Department at FSU and an instructor in the Department of Physical Education at UCF. Additional work experience includes high school physical education instruction and supervisor in Volusia County, Florida, as well as grant writing and consulting at Curva and Associates and UCF.

In addition to serving as the current executive director of SHAPE Florida, Hollie served as President, Chair of the Advocacy Strategy Panel and 18 years as conference program director. She received the Peter Everett Honor Award, Don Knitt Service Award and Presidential Awards in 2010, 2008 and 2007. Hollie served a 3-year term on the Southern District Board of Directors, and she currently chairs the district nominating committee, serves as a member of the district membership committee and in 2009, served as the Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements committee for the 2009 AAHPERD National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Hollie’s scholarly presentations center around advocacy, grant writing and measurement and evaluation in the areas of teacher education and sports conditioning. For the past 18-years, Hollie has been a strong advocate for physical and health education at the capitol in Tallahassee.
**SHAPE America Southern District Award Recipients 2017**

**Honor Award - Anne Wiggin**

Anne Wiggin holds a BS degree from Manchester College with a major in Health and Physical Education. Employed by the Macon County Schools in Franklin, NC since 1986, she is a National Board Certified Teacher in Physical Education and Early and Middle Childhood. Service to North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NCAAHPERDSM) include President, 2014-15, Vice President for both Athletic Education (2011) and Physical Education (2009-11). NCAAHPERDSM has presented her with the Physical Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

In Southern District of SHAPE America, Anne is currently an elected member the District Leadership Council, served as chair of: the District Future Professionals LDC, the Scholar Award, the Middle School Toy Award, the Adapted Physical Toy Award and the Abstract Research chair. In Southern District AAHPERD, she was elected V.P for the General Division, served as chair of the Scholar Award Committee and chair of a council with in the Division of Sport and Leisure. Additional service include the Nominating Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Let’s Move Active School. Anne has represented: NC on the Southern District Representative Assembly since 2007 and Southern District on the SHAPE America Delegate Assembly. Service within AAHPERD included Awards Chair for AAPAR and delegate to the AAHPERD Delegate Assembly 2009-2013. Anne’s scholarly interest center around adventure education and fitness.

**Scholar Award - Duane Knudson**

Duane Knudson received his B.S. in Education degree from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, his MS in Education degree from Baylor University, and his PhD in Biomechanics from University of Wisconsin – Madison. Duane has held tenured faculty positions at Baylor University, California State University-Chico, and Texas State University. He is currently Professor and Chair in the Department of Health and Human Performance at Texas State University. Knudson’s research areas are in the biomechanics of tennis, stretching, qualitative movement diagnosis, learning biomechanical concepts, as well as influence and citation metrics of kinesiology research.

Duane has received numerous grants for his research on the biomechanics of sport and exercise. He has published over 95 peer-reviewed articles in top tier journals like the Journal of Applied Biomechanics, International Journal of Sport Biomechanics, and Journal of Sports Sciences, and Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport. He has authored three books, 14 chapters, and 28 peer-reviewed articles in scientific proceedings. He has served on four journal editorial boards, Vice President of Publications for ISBS, President of the AKA, and has been elected fellow of three scholarly societies. Knudson has been awarded the outstanding young alumni award from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the 2010 Southeast ACSM Scholar, 2011 Ruth B. Glassow Honor Award from the Biomechanics Academy of NASPE, the 2016 NAHKHE Dudley Allen Sargent Lecture, and the 2016 Texas Association of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance Scholar Award.

**Taylor Dodson Young Professional Award - Jamie Sparks**

Jamie Sparks is the School Health and Physical Education Network Director at the Kentucky Department of Education. In his current position, he develops state-wide partnerships to implement exemplary school health programs, practices and polices, facilitates state-wide trainings and presentations to promote effective implementation of various aspects of Coordinated School Health programs, and manages state-wide grants from the CDC. Before working at the Department of Education Jamie taught Health and Physical Education at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. During this time he was actively involved in coaching gymnastics and football, served on school health and wellness committees, Directed district school health team that oversaw monitoring, implementation and annual evaluation of the district wellness policy.

Jamie is the Past President of Kentucky Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance. In addition to facilitating professional development opportunities within his state, he frequently travels and presents at district and national conferences. Nicole Barber-Culp from the Kentucky Department of Education says “Jamie’s commitment and dedication to the health and education of the children in Kentucky is invaluable. He is a big picture thinker who has achieved greatness through both policy change and best practice recommendations to school districts statewide. Jamie is deserving of district recognition for both his character and contributions he has made as an administrator and leader in school health education.
W. Clyde Partin Service Award - Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation was founded in 2005 by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation as a response to the growing rate of childhood obesity. The goal as an organization is to create systemic change that is not isolated to one home, community, school, industry, or state but rather healthy changes that build upon one another and create a system that makes the healthy choice the easy choice.

The Alliance’s Healthy Schools Program (HSP) launched in 2006 in 231 schools in 13 states. Ten years later, HSP is in all 50 states and over 35,000 schools serving over 18 million children. The Healthy Out-of-School Time (HOST) Initiative uses the same evidence based best practices and resources to promote healthy eating and physical activity in out-of-school time sites. HSP and HOST are free and accessible to all schools and out-of-school time sites in the country.

In 12 of the 13 SHAPE America’s Southern District states, the Alliance has at least one full-time staff member to provide in person training and professional development to schools, school districts, out-of-school time sites and stakeholders on using evidence-based tools and resources to promote changes in programs and policy to create healthier environments that increase healthy eating behaviors and physical activity opportunities. A May 2015 study showed the extent of participation in the Program is linked to 1.7% reductions in the prevalence of overweight and obesity among students in high-need schools.

Ethnic Minority Award - Henry H. Ross

Henry H. Ross, a native Alabamian is an instructor in the Department of Health and Human Performance at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Henry earned his doctorate in Secondary/Higher Education, Curriculum and Instruction Texas A&M University-Commerce, his master’s in physical education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Aside from teaching courses in health and human performance, his research focuses on the concerns of African American faculty employed at predominantly white colleges and universities. In addition to several local, state, and national presentations on this subject, he has been published in The Journal of Race Ethnicity and Education and Dilemmas of Black Faculty at U.S. Prior to achieving full-time status as an instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department at Texas A&M University-Commerce, Henry served as an instructor and assistant football coach with the A&M-Commerce Lions from 1985 – 1999. Henry served as the interim department head of the Health and Human Performance Department at Texas A&M University-Commerce from 2008-2011. For the past 15 years, Henry has been an active member in the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD), SHAPE America, and the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE). Henry has held numerous offices as a TAHPERD member and lead TAHPERD as its president in 2014. Presently, he serves as a reviewer for the Texas Education Agency Coordinated School Health Program, the Ethnic Minority Awards Committee for Southern District (SHAPE) and the Social Justice/Diversity Committee for NAKHE.

K-12 Dance Educator of the Year - BJ Santos

Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Tap, Middle Eastern, Ballroom, Swing, Hip Hop, Break Dancing, Dance Exercise and Gymnastics. That is how the description begins pertaining her participation in dance. BJ Santos works at a charter school whose mission is to serve youth who are at risk for not graduating high school or graduating below potential. She is described as teaching dance in a way to “connect students to school, to help them find ways to be physically active without ... being competitive or “sporty”, and to develop a talent they might not have known they had.” Santos has created a dance club which meets before/after and during school hours. She is also lauded as being, at one time, a member of the dance troupe herself! Her classes are described as creative, cross curricular and a fabulous performance art genre. She is said to have a joyous approach to teaching dance which transcends all who are privileged to work with her. BJ is seen as an example of true excellence as a teacher of dance, and as a role model for her students and peers.

Her principal writes “Ms. Santos’s dedication for encouraging dance as a way to stay fit well into adulthood, as well as understanding that it is a powerful way to connect to disaffected teens is commendable.” We should all learn from BJ Santos in terms of her skills and dedication for teaching to make us all stronger teachers. Oh, and Flash Mobs! AND Aerial.
College/University Health Professional of the Year - Shelley Holden

Shelley Holden is an Associate Professor at the University of South Alabama. She received her EdD from the University of West Florida in Curriculum and Instruction in 2006 with an emphasis in Health Education. She is a member of many professional organizations relating to health and physical education, she has coached volleyball, track and field, and golf through her tenure as a teacher. Holden had the opportunity to develop the first fully online course (HS 463- Human Sexuality) at USA. She supervises health student teachers in local high schools and health non-teacher certification majors in community based internships at places such as the local health department, wellness facilities, fitness centers, and local hospitals.

Shelley is a supporter of health and wellness as a profession and spends much of her time outside of the classroom teaching others about nutrition and health. She typically gives 3-5 lectures per year on these topics to local volleyball clubs and high schools. This past year she lectured to Legacy Volleyball in Mobile as well as Baker high school volleyball and cheerleading teams, and UMS Wright women’s basketball team. Also, in the past she worked with Calvin Crist (Mobile County Public Schools) to create a Sports Nutrition curriculum to be taught in local high schools. Her major research of late have focused in the areas of burnout (coaches and athletes) and nutritional knowledge (coaches, athletes, and students). By incorporating her experience as a collegiate athlete and high school coach, it has been possible to provide unique and creative additions to these bodies of research.

Outstanding Future Professional of the Year - Michael Bergeron

Michael Bergeron is a student at Kennesaw State University pursuing a degree in Health and Physical Education where he serves as co-president of the Health and Physical Education Majors club. He has remained on the dean's list and president's list every year during his college career. In 2015, Michael was named Georgia Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance Outstanding Undergraduate Student and in 2016 he was named a SHAPE America Major of the Year.

Michael is also a certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine and worked as a freelance personal trainer from 2011 – 2013. His passion for teaching fitness to clients led him to major in Health and Physical Education so he could teach students on a more fundamental level.

Michael has served on the Southern District Leadership council for 2 years. During this time he has attended and presented at the future professional leadership conferences and the leadership development conferences. He is also involved with Physical and Leisure Activity (PLAY) for Youth with Disabilities and he volunteers at the Kennesaw Teen Center. It is evident that Michael is an outstanding future professional and will have a tremendous impact on the profession for years to come.

K-12 Health Professional of the Year - Andrea Samskey

Andrea Samskey teaches at Armstrong Elementary in Hampton, Virginia. She received a Bachelor’s Degree from James Madison University in Physical Education/Health Education with a minor in Coaching. She has been teaching for 22 years. She understands how to spiral content areas together so student internalize skills and begin to think critically to further enhance their knowledge and make good choices in diverse environments. In creating the Hampton City Schools Health and Physical Education curriculum and Pacing Guide in 2015, she designed it to provide guidance for teaching skills and physical activity instruction that are in alignment with both the health and the Physical Education New Virginia SOLs. She designed and implemented an activity book for classroom teachers that integrated games with core curricula, while implementing movement education and whole brain activities. She enjoys creating and presenting new ideas at workshops.

She is involved with Jump Rope for Heart, Save the Bay, Wellness Day at Fort Monroe, Morning Fitness Club, Boys in Crisis Sports Program, and many other service activities in her local community. In 2015, she was chosen to represent the HCS Health and Wellness Department to showcase a digital lesson presentation to an audience of parent, school board members, city council members, and division administration to show how technology is used in her lessons. Friends and co-workers describe her as dedicated, kind, patient, and generous with herself. Her administrator, Levia Stovall writes, “Andrea has demonstrated the highest level of instruction leadership and a thorough knowledge of curriculum and instruction.”
Recreation Professional of the Year - Carol Smith

Carol Smith has been active in SHAPE America, formerly AAHPERD, for almost 30 years. She has taught at Elon University in North Carolina for 18 years as an assistant and associate professor in the department of Health & Human Performance. Carol has served her university, state, district and national level of the profession admirably as evidenced by the many committees, presentations and awards received for her efforts. Among these awards is the SHAPE America Southern District Honor Award which she received in 2016. While her reference letters speak to her service and credentials what stands out is the focus is on her leadership, enthusiasm and excitement related to Outdoor Adventure Education and Recreation. From developing a minor in Adventure Based Education to working with study abroad programs using adventure education, Carol remains passionate about Recreation and her field. She is truly an authentic and avid supporter of Recreation programs and policies, and the positive impact they have on the lives and spirits of people. Carol practices what she teaches.

Carol is the type of professional who possesses the confidence and knowledge to ask the right and sometimes difficult questions while serving in positions of leadership. She pays attention to detail and she does her ‘homework’ on the important matters related to issues, ideas and initiatives. These skills have served her, her students and her profession very well.

Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Laura Brickhouse

Great teaching is a willingness to learn from students. Lara Brickhouse cares for the importance of relationships over following a specific pedagogy. Students, specifically those with special needs, teach teachers how to teach. Learning how to listen is seeing children for their possibility. Possibility means believing in hope over limitations. If you ask Lara what awards she has received, you will not get a list of accomplishments. You’ll get stories. Like the time her supposed non-verbal student with autism, drew a blue square with squiggly lines on a whiteboard and said, “Pool!” Or, when she volunteered at a surf camp with a blind student, and found herself speechless when he asked, “Just how big is the ocean, Ms. Brickhouse?”

Lara knows that a person is not measured by the content of a resume, rather by a collection of “cans” in a world of “can’t’s,”; and, the number of closed minds that were opened. Lara prides herself on her ability to accept mini-victories, to turn failures into successes, and to exhibit gratitude for the small things in life that are often taken for granted by those without disabilities. Ask Lara if she has children of her own and her eyes will fill with tears. She will tell you, “Sure do, 110 now, and open for more.”

Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Emily Adams

Emily Adams has been teaching physical education at Kennesaw Elementary since 1993. Emily earned her B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Georgia and her Ed.S. degree from the State University of West Georgia. During her teaching career Emily has earned Teacher of the Year for Kennesaw Elementary, Cobb County Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year, Georgia AHPERD Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year, Southern District SHAPE America Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year, the Award of Excellence in P.E., Southern District SHAPE America Outstanding JRFH Coordinator, and National SHAPE America Outstanding JRFH Coordinator.

Kennesaw’s P.E. goal is to provide a positive environment of fun, fitness, and activity. The Grasshoppers jump rope team consists of all 2nd grade students. In 2015 they performed at the Southern District SHAPE America Convention in Atlanta and in 2016 performed at the State Board of Education meeting. Kennesaw’s Jump Rope For Heart tradition has raised over $744,000 for the American Heart Association. Kennesaw has been a top JRFH school in Georgia since 1999. The Walking Club is available for the children and faculty to complete laps around the gym before school. Each winter Kennesaw has a P.E. Show for PTA and spring includes three field days including Opening Ceremonies which highlight 2nd grade students with speaking parts and carrying the torch. Field days are competitive with the emphasis on sportsmanship. The kids are assigned “P.E. Homework” to get outside, play, be safe, and have fun.
Middle Physical Education Teacher of the Year - Laura Prior

Laura Prior currently teaches at Tuscaloosa Magnet School and is the current Past President for the Alabama State Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance (ASAHPERD). She holds a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from TROY University and a M.S. in Sport Pedagogy from The University of Alabama. In the summer of 2016, Laura received her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. She has been a board member for ASAHPERD since 2011, a Let’s Move Active Schools State Coordinator, a conference presenter at state, district, and national SHAPE America. She has represented ASAHPERD in Washington, DC at Speak Out Day for the past three years, where she has had the opportunity to speak to legislators advocating for physical education. Laura holds multiple certifications for group fitness and utilizes these skills in her physical education classes.

Laura has earned numerous awards, including ASAHPERD Middle School Teacher of the Year, Nick’s Kids Teacher Excellence Award, TMSM Teacher of the Year, TROY University Most Distinguished Graduate, and Most Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant for The University of Alabama. She is a HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) teacher and the founder of PUSH (Physical Uplifting School Health) for Tuscaloosa City Schools. Additionally, she has received $46,482 in grant money, and serves as the Lead Physical Educator for Tuscaloosa City Schools.

High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year - William Bode

William Bode has been teaching for 24 years, all in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Presently, he works at the Performance Learning Center (PLC) High School and has been there since it opened in 2006. At the PLC, he has truly grown as a professional educator. Starting off without a gym or equipment William learned fast how to engage his students without much to work with. He has taught units like self defense, Pilates, yoga, and others that are fitness related. As William gained some equipment, he began teaching non-traditional units like orienteering, disc golf, adventure education and golf.

William is an advocate for physical educators in my district/state as well as social media. He is the co-creator of the #PhysEdSummit, a free online conference for health and physical education teachers all over the world. Also he organized EdCamp ACTIVE, professional development to help teachers address and learn the most relevant topics they presently face. In 2013, William participated in the Governor’s Teachers Network to help produce quality professional development to teachers in our curriculum content throughout North Carolina. He completed an action research project on how participation and dressing-out negatively impacts grades and is not a true measure of learning. William attended Pfeiffer College from 1988-1992, where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Physical Education.

Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator of the Year - Joy Faye Raymer Heines

Joy Faye Raymer Heines began her teaching career for Jefferson County, Kentucky Public Schools in 1985, following receipt of her Physical Education degree from Berea College. She never “planned” to teach elementary school, but always credits her former mentor and dear friend, the late Joy Hager of Berea, for “making” her obtain her K-12 certification. 31 years later, she can’t imagine having done anything else. Joy has taught at 10 JCPS schools, and has been the PE teacher at Hite Elementary since 1988.

Joy joined SHAPE America in 1989, and has served KAHPERD in roles including convention manager, PE Chair, and as a 22-year State JRFH Coordinator. In 1994, she organized the “Hite Heart-Throbs” Jump Rope Demonstration team. In its 23rd season, the Heart-Throbs support JRFH, doing 25 – 30 school performances annually. In the Louisville community, they have performed at AHA Heart-Walks, University of Louisville basketball games, and as a regular fixture in the annual Derby Festival Pegasus Parade. They performed at Southern District Conventions in Birmingham, Biloxi, Lexington and Baton Rouge; at the Atlanta, Orlando, New Orleans and Tampa Shape America conventions; and every KAHPERD Convention since 1994.

Joy has been SHAPE America’s JRFH Coordinator of the Year; KAHPERD’s Elementary PE Teacher of the Year and has been the recipient of the KAHPERD Merit and Distinguished Service Awards. She was named as the first Crystal Heart Person of the Year by the American Heart Association. Over the years her JRFH events have raised over $350,000.
Anita Davis received her degree in Physical Education from the University of Alabama. She is certified to teach in Florida and Alabama and has taught in both states throughout her career. She currently teaches at Huntington Place Elementary in Northport, Alabama and was named the Alabama Elementary Educator of the Year in 2013. Anita is currently the Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Co-Coordinator for Alabama State Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance. She has planned professional development opportunities for teachers in Tuscaloosa County and Tuscaloosa City Schools and has worked with the AHA Youth Market Director to promote Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart during those sessions.

Anita believes it is important for students to participate in community events. She’s worked hard to plant the seeds of sportsmanship, personal achievement, team spirit, and fun into every student she teaches. As well, her supervisors have consistently shown appreciation for her successfully achieving the goals of both the school system and principal. “I have held Jump Rope for Heart Events and Hoops for Heart Event for over 27 years. I feel it is my duty as a teacher to teach students about Heart Disease, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. Hoops for Heart also teaches students to play basketball lead up games, learn about their heart and raise money for American Heart Association. I always tell my students to make a difference in someone else’s life by participating in Hoops for Heart.”