The Donna L. Dunaway Medal (The Dunaway Medal) is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member by SHAPE America Southern District. In that spirit, the Donna L. Dunaway Medal 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 2018 recipient is Milton R. Wilder, a retired Professor Emeritus of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) from Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. In addition to 29 years at DSU, his 44-year teaching career included the University of New Orleans, the University of Alabama in Birmingham and 4½ years teaching and coaching in public schools in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Continuous membership in AAHPERD (now SHAPE America) began in 1971 during his undergraduate years at Samford University. Specific service to this chosen profession at the state level included president of the Alabama College Association of HPER and later president of the Alabama State Association of HPER. While at UNO, he served Louisiana AHPERD as PEPi Coordinator. Twenty-nine years of service to the Mississippi HPERD included President, an elected or appointed member of the Board of Directors (22 years) and State Convention Manager.

In 1991, Joyce Moore appointed him to the Southern District Board of Directors asLinks Editor. This began elected service on the Southern District Board of Directors that included president, vice president of the general division, and Southern District representative to the AAHPERD Board of Directors. Presidential appointments to the Southern District BOD included Parliamentarian, Presidential Advisory Committee and chair of some fifteen district wide committees. These elected and appointed positions allowed Milton to serve on the Southern District Board of Directors for 13 years. Service to Alabama and Mississippi HPERD organizations, when added to these years permitted him to serve on the Southern District representative assembly for 19 years.

An appointment to the AAHPERD Nominations Committee began Milton’s service to AAHPERD (SHAPE America) which included representation on the AAHPERD Alliance Assembly representing Southern District, Alabama and Mississippi. He served on the AAHPERD (SHAPE America) Board of Directors during the unsure years of reorganizing AAHPERD into SHAPE America, co-chairing the AHPERD/SHAPE America District Reorganization Task Force.

Milton considers one of the most important appointments in his professional career was as liaison from the SHAPE America Board of Directors to Southern District, a task he felt included keeping the lines of communication open between the 13 Southern District states, Southern District and SHAPE America. As one of his Southern District colleagues notes, ‘when commitment, passion, integrity, hard work, intelligence and humor all collide at once, you get a Milton Wilder! Southern District has benefitted from that wonderful collision of forces since Milton joined the team in 1971.’

Established by voters, the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) is a state grantmaking trust devoted to preventing cancer and cardiovascular disease, Oklahoma’s leading causes of death. By awarding grants to schools, communities, state agencies and partner organizations, TSET works to improve the health of Oklahoma’s citizens. It also funds research and emerging opportunities in the public and private sectors. TSET initiatives are addressing Oklahoma’s most pressing public health issues and creating healthier places for all Oklahomans to live, work, learn and play. Because of TSET’s investments in grants and programs, Oklahoma’s smoking rate has dropped 10x faster than similar states.

In 2017, $219,000 in TSET funds were awarded as part of the TSET Healthy Communities and Healthy Schools Incentive Grant program. Key strategies for communities include tobacco-free environments, active living, offering and promoting fruits and vegetables through community gardens, and making healthy foods more appealing and affordable. Strategies for schools include district wellness policies that focus on better nutrition and more physical activity to improve the health of students as well as tobacco-free and vape-free environments at all times.

“We are proud to recognize communities and schools that made the healthy choice the easy choice,” said TSET Executive Director John Woods. “… these communities and schools are making meaningful changes that encourage Oklahomans to live a healthy lifestyle and prevent tobacco use and obesity before they take root. Combined with other prevention efforts, these communities and schools are working to reduce the demand on an already stressed health care system; saving lives and saving money.”
Taylor Dodson Young Professional Award – Yu Chun 'Jean' Chen

Yu Chun 'Jean' Chen is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana Tech University. She received her PhD in Sport Pedagogy from The University of Alabama in 2012 where she was also a Graduate Assistant in the Physical Education Teacher Education program. Born in Taiwan, Jean graduated from National Taiwan Normal University with a degree in Physical Education. She spent a few years teaching physical education in Taiwan and then moved to the US and received her Master of Arts in Sport Management from California State University. Dr. Chen has a long list of accomplishment in her short career including numerous publications and presentations to state, regional, and national journals and conventions as well as having applied for and received several well-funded grants for her research.

Chen is a current member of LAHPERD and serves regularly in her state by being a contributing editor, peer reviewer, and board member. She is active in University and College committees and Task Forces and is currently the Graduate Teaching Assistant Coordinator. She is very active in the community and school activities with field day, health fairs, and workshops. She is a current member of SHAPE America and in January of 2017, Jean was the recipient of the LAHPERD Ethnic Minority Award.

Southern District Health Education Teacher of the Year – Shana Classen

Shana Classen teaches K-5th physical education and health at Washington Irving (W.I.) Elementary in Edmond, Oklahoma. She graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education from Oklahoma Christian University and a Master’s Degree in School Counseling from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. In 2006, Shana became National Board Certified. W.I. Elementary is a part of the “Healthy Schools OK” (HSOK) grant program. HSOK provides professional development opportunities, curriculum, materials, P.E. equipment, funds and access to community partners, so students can have meaningful learning experiences. The W.I. Elementary program has acquired two Action Based Learning (ABL) labs, one from HSOK and another from a Cox Communications grant. The ABL labs are utilized for weekly health classes for 1st-4th grade. Our classroom teachers utilize the ABL on a weekly basis.

Shana has contributed to two health and safety curriculums and has found it to be very gratifying. She collaborates with her colleagues for three music programs each year and organizes a Jump Rope for Heart event, running club, mileage club, monthly dances, and an annual health fair. Shana has a passion for physical education and health, because active and healthy students make better learners. John F. Kennedy’s quote illustrates her philosophy, “Intelligence and skill can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong.” As a teacher who believes in the whole child approach, Shana believes it is her responsibility to provide educational experiences that enable students to reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

College/University Physical Educator of the Year – Lorraine Killion

Lorraine Killion joined as a student member of TAHPERD in 1996 and has maintained her current professional membership status throughout the thirteen years of her professional career. She is an Associate Professor for the College of Education and Human Performance at Texas A&M University -Kingsville (TAMUK). She has experience teaching in: Houston Independent School District, Lone Star Community College, Houston Baptist University, Rice University, and Lamar University. She is currently the EC-12 Physical Education Program Coordinator in the Department of Health & Kinesiology Department at TAMUK.

Lorraine received her doctorate at the University of Houston. She has received numerous awards including: Junior Faculty of the Year Award (TAMUK, 2014) and the 2017 Texas A&M University System Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching Award. She has served on TAHPERD College Division Sections: Research Section, Chair (2016), Assessment & Evaluation Section Chair (2010), and Professional Preparation Section Chair (2008). She has presented at local, state, national, and international conventions and currently serves as a manuscript reviewer for the TAHERPD Journal. She is a member of SHAPE (Society for Health and Physical Education) America, National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE), Association for Applied Sport Psychology, Phi Epsilon Kappa, and North American Society for Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (NASPSPA).
Southern District Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year – Keith Young

Keith Young is a physical education teacher at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) since 2009. Dr. Jeanne Prickett (FSDB President) states, “He is a passionate teacher and an enthusiastic collaborator within the community that is highly effective in identifying student’s needs and adapting activities”. He has created a FSDB Physical Education Curriculum Manual and a Teaching Physical Education to Students with Visual Impairments professional development video portfolio for teachers. In addition to his teaching duties, he is the Positive Behavior Support coach for the Physical Education Department and the Goalball Head Coach with multiple national championships and All-Americans. Prior to teaching physical education, he served in the US Air Force for 12 years and deployed numerous times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Keith is married to his wife, Samantha, and has a daughter Abbey. Outside of teaching, he is currently a doctoral student at the University of West Florida. He has been a USA National Taekwondo Team Coach since 2013 at the Deaflympics, World Para Taekwondo Championships, and the Para Pan Am Games. Recently, selected as the 2020 Paralympic Games as the USA Team Leader. He serves on the World Taekwondo Federation’s Para Education Committee to design training modules in accordance with the International Paralympic Committee. His teaching focus: “Students First, Students Last, Students Always”.

Southern District Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year – Bonnie Baker Richardson

Bonnie Baker Richardson received her Bachelor of Science, Master’s and Master’s + 30 degrees from Louisiana State University. She has taught K-12 physical education for 34 years in Acadia and East Baton Rouge Parish schools. She is currently the physical education teacher at Baton Rouge Foreign Language Academic Immersion Magnet Elementary School.

Bonnie has held many leadership roles in LAHPERD serving as President, Vice-President of Dance twice, Vice-President of Recreation and the Chair of the Advocacy/Visibility Committee. She has also served Southern District SHAPE America as Dance Council Chair, Conference Planning Committee, Kaleidoscope Coordinator, Representative Assembly delegate and Southern District/LAHPERD presenter. During Bonnie’s Presidency, LAHPERD hosted the most successful Southern District Conference ever. Bonnie has represented LAHPERD for 3 years at Speak Out Day in Washington, D.C. advocating for our students’ health and physical education promoting ESSA. She worked closely with the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to include physical education in the Louisiana Framework of ESSA and is currently on the work group developing the Interest and Opportunities part of the Framework. Bonnie is a National Board Certified teacher, Project Fit America All-Star Teacher of the Year, LSU Future Professional mentor, Active Schools National Recognition Award recipient, LAHPERD Model School Award recipient, the Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative-Healthy BR/Project Fit America grant recipient and LSU Golden Girl. Bonnie’s community service includes coaching the BR FLAIM Run Club, YMCA/Acadia Parish soccer, basketball and softball teams, State Fitness Meet Volunteer and Key Volunteer for the 3/23 Marines.

Southern District Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year – Angela Stark

Angela Stark was born and raised in Lynnwood, WA near Seattle. She attended Whitworth University in Spokane, WA earning a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology with certifications in Special Education and Health. She spent her first 2 years teaching high school physical education and coaching cross country and track in the Pacific northwest.

In 2003, Mrs. Stark transferred to Lexington, KY with her husband. For 12 years she taught special education, physical education, and health education at Southern Middle School. At Southern, Angela is most proud of her efforts to ensure a quality physical education program while spearheading efforts to create a healthier school environment. For five years, she served as co-director of Southern Middle School 5K race, a highly regarded healthy fundraiser outreach supporting active lifestyles. Because of these efforts, the school was award the Healthy Schools Program Bronze Level National Award. In 2015, Stark moved to the School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCAPA) where she teaches health and physical education to students in 4th to 8th grade. While at SCAPA, she has built the wellness program through grants, fundraisers, strengthening the wellness policy, and weaving wellness throughout the entire school. She also remains involve leading the 5K race. In 2016, she earned the KAHPERD Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Service Award.
Southern District High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year – Amy Wheeler

Amy Wheeler has been a health and physical educator since 2005 after earning her undergraduate and graduate degrees from James Madison University (GO DUKES!). Amy currently serves as both her district’s K-12 curriculum coordinator and a high school teacher in Harrisonburg, VA, where she strives to bring real-life scenarios into her physical education classes. She has been recognized at the local and state level for a project called Pedometers Make Cents, which connects steps earned in physical education throughout the year to real-world budgeting and planning scenarios by converting steps into a fictional monetary value. Recently, Amy has been working on developing a variation to the SportEd Model, where each role of the team has a more cooperative-learning and career-readiness focus.

Beyond the standard Virginia high school curriculum, Amy has also developed and/or taught several other HPE offerings, including a female fitness class, a dual-enrollment kinesiology class, and a personal training certification class. Life outside of school, you will find Amy being a wife to David Loughran, a high school special education teacher and a mother to their (almost) two-year-old son, Keegan. She fills the remaining time with workouts at OrangeTheory Fitness, skiing when there is snow, and golfing when there is not.

Outstanding Future Professional – Darrien Watson

Darrien Watson is working on his Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. He is an active member of the Oklahoma Association and he plans to graduate and further his education in graduate school. Academics have always been an important pillar in Darrien’s life. His goal is to continue his education and become a researcher in the field of Exercise Science and Adaptive Physical Education. He currently maintains a strong GPA, he is a Langston Honor student, and he has been on the Dean’s Honor Roll since starting college.

Darrien is not only passionate about academics but is also passionate for the well-being of all people. He spends his free time volunteering as a coach for the local high school varsity football team and he assists with player development during the offseason. He is a certified ‘peer educator’ teaching students about substance abuse and sexual health. In 2016, Darrien had the opportunity to work at Ramapo for Children, a summer camp for children facing behavioral and learning challenges. In summer 2017, he was part of the Auburn Future Scholars Bridge Program for Kinesiology students. Mr. Watson lives by the quote, ‘Living life is a choice. Making a difference in someone else’s isn’t.’

Sport Professional of the Year - Kaylyn Bayly

Kaylyn Bayly currently teaches physical education and the HOPE Curriculum at Country Side High School in Pinellas County, Florida. Kaylyn has served as the Department Chairperson for Physical Education, Driver’s Education and Health for 19 years. She has also served as an athletic coach in Pinellas County for 26 years, coaching varsity volleyball, softball and flag football. Kaylyn has been named Coach of the Year in all three sports.

Kaylyn helped start a flag football program to help with gender equity and she was instrumental in developing the high school rules of the game as well. Flag football is now recognized as a state sport in Florida. Teams coached by Kaylyn have enjoyed considerable success, with her volleyball team making two Final Four appearances, with one state runner up. As a softball coach, she has 14 straight playoff appearances in 14 years and has coached 30 softball players to receive softball scholarships at the college/university level. Kaylyn was also named the Brighthouse Sports Coach of the Year.
Recreation Professional of the Year – Allison Hoit Tubbs

Allison Hoit Tubbs is a certified exercise physiologist and health educator. She is the Project Coordinator of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD), a federally funded National Center on Disability and health promotion resource and practice center of the CDC. Her work is focused on building healthy, inclusive communities where all people have equal access and opportunities for healthy living. Her experience spans across the areas of industrial rehabilitation, health promotion, wellness coaching, health communication, and physical activity programming for people with disability.

Allison has developed and implemented public health advocacy campaigns including, Commit to Inclusion, in partnership with the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports, & Nutrition and How I Walk, in support of the U.S. Surgeon General’s Call to Action on Walking. She has been published in MediaplanetUSA distributed through USA Today, the ACSM’s Fit Society® Page, and Sports ‘N Spokes magazine and is a regular contributor to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service’s Be Active Your Way Blog. Locally, Allison is the most recent Past-Chair of the Alabama Obesity Task Force and Advocacy Chair and VP Elect of Physical Education for the ASAHPERD. She has served as a 2016 Health Expert for the statewide Scale Back Alabama program and was given the Miriam J. Gaines Leadership Award by the Alabama Obesity Task Force in 2016.

Southern District Dance Education Teacher of the Year - Rebecca Mathews Acosta

Rebecca Mathews Acosta is the Director of the Baton Rouge Magnet High School (BRMHS) dance program. For years, she has served as the Associate Director of the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre (BRBT) and Director of the BRBT Youth Ballet. In the evenings and on the weekends, she teaches intermediate and advanced ballet at The Dancers’ Workshop. In the spring of 2017, Ms. Acosta co-created and choreographed the full-length ballet Rapunzel for BRBT, collaborating with BRMHS Dance Department and Boys Step Team for Contemporary Choreography. Rebecca studied on full scholarship at the Joffrey Ballet, New York, and on scholarship with the Eglevsky Ballet, where she appeared as a demi-soloist in Swan Lake and a soloist in Paquita. She has appeared in numerous principal roles with BRBT including The Nutcracker, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Swan Lake, Giselle, Family Secrets, and Women of Acts. She has appeared in several LSU opera and theater productions, and in West Side Story with Theatre Baton Rouge. An LSU graduate, she earned a nursing degree from our Lady of the Lake College.

As an American Ballet Theatre Certified Teacher, she completed the ABT Teacher Training in Primary through Level 7 and Partnering of the ABT National Training Curriculum in New York. Ms. Acosta is certified in Progressing Ballet Technique. A Kappa Delta Alum and a sustaining member of the Junior League of Baton Rouge, Rebecca Mathews Acosta lives with her husband Marc and children Marc Jr. and Lizzie.

Hoops For Heart Coordinator of the Year – Tecca Kilmer

Tecca earned a Bachelor’s degree in Physical and Health Education from West Virginia University and a Master’s degree in Adapted Physical Education from the University of South Florida. She has been teaching at Turkey Creek Middle School in Plant City, FL for the past twenty-three years. Tecca was instrumental in leading her school to be one of the nationally recognized STARS schools from 2004 – 2015 and has created many programs and events in her school and community to further wellness and physical activity. In 2017 she received the Hoops for Heart Coordinator of the Year award for SHAPE Florida.

Tecca has served Southern District on the Leadership Council, and as the Southern District LMAS state coordinator chair. She is currently on the Southern District Advocacy Committee and serves as the Awards Co-Coordinator. She was president of SHAPE Florida and has been the Florida and Southern District Middle School Teacher of the Year. She has presented at the local, district, and national levels and represented SHAPE America as one of the teachers of the year that was invited to work with NASA to develop Train Like an Astronaut curriculum/materials. As her colleagues and co-workers will attest, Tecca is a ‘can do; will do’ consummate professional. She is an outstanding team member, who when it is necessary, will speak up and take action.