

# Dental Hygienist OF THE YEAR

IDHA is proud to present **KATIE GISLESON RDH, MHEA**, the 2017 RDH of the Year Award



Looking back on our careers, we can all remember one or two dental hygiene educators who really stand out in our minds as exceptionally effective. All too often these instructors make contributions toward the future of our profession that are impossible to quantify and acknowledge. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a dental hygienist in the State of Iowa that worked exceptionally hard this year to advance the art and science of dental hygiene through the education of students and her work in private practice as a clinician "in the trenches" during her summer away from the College.

Katie Gisleson maintained and promoted the highest standards of dental hygiene education and practice in the last year through her leadership and work ethic during a transition time at Hawkeye Community College. Katie earned her Master's degree in 2015 through Upper Iowa University. As the College hired new administration in the Fall of 2015, she was the constant cornerstone in the dental faculty organization. Through the Fall 2015 accreditation, and the Spring retirement of 25-year

veteran Bonnie Ocheltree, Katie worked to assist in the hiring and training of a new fulltime faculty for the Dental Hygiene program.

Katie teaches Ethics, and personifies the image of an ethical and moral dental hygienist in private practice and in education. Katie is compassionate to students, maintains fair policies in clinical and didactic education, and assists the students in having fun while learning the basic concepts of dental hygiene that evolve to more intricate concepts of patient care as they navigate the process of passing written and clinical boards - all while stressing the highest standards of OSHA compliance and quality patient care experiences in Hawkeye's 18 chair dental clinic.

Katie has made meaningful contributions to IDHA in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 calendar years through the participation in the Dental Hygiene Educator's Conference and Fall Event and the participation of her students in the Dental Hygiene Student Table Clinics at IDHA Annual Sessions. Katie has been licensed since 2007, and practices dental hygiene in the summers at Dental Associates of Manchester in Manchester, Iowa.

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## Distinguished Service Award

IDHA is proud to present **NANCY MILLER RDH, BS**, the 2017 Distinguished Service Award



Promoting oral health, raising consumer awareness of the importance of the role of dental hygienists, seeking continuing education opportunities to acquire new skills, and encouraging participation in the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association – these have been the pursuits of Nancy Miller's 40+ years in the dental hygiene profession. Being a member of the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association all those years played a major part in reaching these goals.

Involvement with the I.D.H.A began at the component level where she has been a member of three different components during her career. Currently, in the North Central component, she sets up continuing education programs, helps write a bi-annual newsletter, meets annually with Iowa Central Community College students, and seeks and prepares delegates to attend the Annual Session.

On the state level, she served as recording secretary, membership chair, A.D.H.A. delegate, President in 1986 – 87, and later Professional Development Council member and chair, and on the legislative committee.

Nancy has presented oral health programs throughout her career to about anyone who will listen – including Kiwanis, Scouts, the VNA, care center workers for in-services, and for 20+ years to area schools from preschool – 6th grade (to as many as 7 schools). She also presents programs on dental careers to area high school students at the local community college – "Career Days."

Recently, Nancy's interest lies in improving the oral health of Iowa's elderly population. To help in this endeavor, she is a member of the Lifelong Smiles Coalition and she helped write and edit (and now teaches) the Mouth Care Matters program which teaches care center workers to observe the mouth and monitor and deliver oral care.

Nancy showcases the best of our profession by continuing to advocate for dental hygiene, by encouraging participation in the association, by promoting oral health for all populations and by having compassion for those we serve.