

Past Honors of the Association Award Recipients

Jim Thurman received the Honors of the Association in 2015 for being one of the most influential speech-language pathologists in the state of Arkansas. His contribution to the profession spans over 42 years. Through Mr. Thurman's long standing presence at the University of Central Arkansas, he has taught and mentored hundreds of speech-language pathologists practicing in and out of our state. He is a certified Brain Injury Specialist who has worked on the weekends for the past 28 years at Timber Ridge Ranch. Under his supervision, numerous graduate students have provided diagnostic and treatment services for children and adults with head injuries at the TRR facility. This experience is unique and many students have commented that this is one of their favorite clinical sites. No doubt this is due to Mr. Thurman's enthusiasm, passion, and commitment to these clients and their families.

Nancy Dunn received the Honors of the Association Award in 2014 for her commitment to her profession and client has not wavered over the past 30 years that she has been a speech-language pathologist. From the very beginning, Nancy has been innovative and passionate in her commitment to children and adults with disabilities, especially those with severe communication problems. Nancy created and coordinated the AAC and Technology Center at Easter Seals, co-authored numerous AAC publications, presented at numerous conferences in Arkansas, across the country and in Europe, as well as coordinated a summer camp for children in Arkansas who use augmentative communication devices. She has made significant contributions to the field of speech pathology over her career, especially in the area of AAC for individuals with severe communication disorders.

Dr. Betholyn Gentry received the Honors of the Association in 2011 for her 30+ years of making valuable contributions to the field of speech-language pathology. These contributions include conducting research, making presentations, training clinicians, and providing services to students diagnosed with ASD or other disabilities that demonstrate difficulty with social skills. She has served in many roles which include Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Director of the UALR Pragmatic Groups, Department Chair, President of ArkSHA, and Co-Director of Communicative Sciences and Disorders Doctoral Program. Dr. Gentry has also co-authored the book *Autism: Attacking Social Interaction Problems (AASIP) The Basic and Beyond: A Therapy Manual and Parent Resource guide Targeting Social Skills in Children 4-12*.