

NCPA awards recognize leadership

What is leadership? Who is a leader? That depends on who you ask, but the definition will likely include attributes such as vision, intelligence, innovative thinking, focus, organizational skills, and the ability to inspire and motivate others toward achieving common goals and objectives. Those qualities are on display in the winners of the major awards for outstanding contributions to independent pharmacy presented at the NCPA 123rd Annual Convention and Trade Exposition in Charlotte, N.C. Those honored have all done their part to inspire others and guide independent community pharmacy in a positive direction, even more so in the face of a global pandemic.

Photography by Michael DeFilippo



WILLARD B. SIMMONS INDEPENDENT PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ira Katz, was named 2021 Willard B. Simmons Independent Pharmacist of the Year. The award, sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC, recognizes an independent pharmacist for exemplary leadership and commitment to independent pharmacy and their community. The award is named in honor of Willard B. Simmons, who exemplified these qualities. Simmons was a former executive secretary of NCPA and a longtime trustee of the NCPA Foundation.

Katz opened Little Five Points Pharmacy in Atlanta 40 years ago and has been recognized over the years for the contributions he's made to his profession and community. As a pharmacist committed to reducing the number of lives lost due to opioid overdoses, Katz understands the importance of community education when it comes to opioid safety. Through his pharmacy, he provides naloxone (Narcan) administration education and has made the product available, free of charge, to those in his community, including local businesses and restaurants. Katz is a proud independent pharmacist and is frequently interviewed by local media outlets, sharing his knowledge and expertise with the community.

Along with his service to the patient community, Katz is active within the professional community. He has been an NCPA member for more than 20 years. He is chairman of the board of the Georgia Academy of Independent Pharmacy, where he has been a board member for more than 25 years, and he also serves on the AIP Alternative Income Committee. He is also a member of the Georgia Pharmacy Association, serving on its governmental affairs team.



GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY NCPA PRUITT-SCHUTTE STUDENT BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

The **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences** won the 18th annual Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition. A team from the University of Texas at Austin was the runner-up, and a team representing the Medical University of South Carolina finished as the second runner-up. Arkansas defended its title from 2020 and has five overall victories, also winning in 2012, 2015, and 2017. The school has the most victories of any team since the competition began.

The 2021 competition drew participants from 23 schools and colleges of pharmacy across the United States. The business plan competition is the first national competition of its kind in the pharmacy profession. The contest is named in honor of two great champions of independent community pharmacy, the late Neil Pruitt Sr., and the late H. Joseph Schutte. The competition's goal is to motivate student pharmacists to create a business model for buying an existing independent community pharmacy or developing a new one. Through this competition, NCPA is helping to prepare tomorrow's pharmacy entrepreneurs. The competition is supported by Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Co., and the NCPA Foundation.

The winning team from Arkansas was comprised of team captain Jason Lam and team members Michael Kramer, Bobby Le, and Rachel Murray. The team adviser was Seth Heldenbrand, and the dean is Cindy Stowe, PharmD. Their chapter received \$3,000, and an additional \$3,000 was contributed to the school in the dean's name to promote independent community pharmacy at the college of pharmacy. The judges for this year's live competition were Amina Abubakar, Mike Bollinger, Steve Hoffart, Melissa Jostand, and Aimee O'Reilly.



JOHN W. DARGAVEL MEDAL

The late **Lonnie Wilson**, former NCPA president and longtime NCPA leader, was posthumously awarded the 2021 John W. Dargavel Medal by the NCPA Foundation. McKesson Corp. sponsors the annual award honoring an individual whose contributions on behalf of independent pharmacy embody the spirit of leadership and accomplishment personified by John W. Dargavel, who was executive secretary of NARD, now NCPA, from 1933 to 1961. Wilson, who passed away in January

2021, owned multiple retail pharmacies in his native Oklahoma and was NCPA president in 2011-12. Wilson's wife Ginger accepted the award in his honor.

From 1989-2018 Wilson served as the CEO of Pharmacy Providers of Oklahoma, which focuses on providing cost containment strategies and information management systems for retail community pharmacies nationwide. The company was formed in 1985 and provides services to more than 3,800 pharmacies nationwide. Wilson served as president of RxLinc, which provides national claims transmission, ePrescribe transmission and data management services, from 1998-2018. Wilson received the Southwestern Oklahoma State University School of Pharmacy Outstanding Alumni Award in 1990 and the Dean's Distinguished Service Award in 2012. He also received the NCPA Calvin J. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. His son Justin serves on the NCPA Board of Directors.



NARD OWNERSHIP AWARD

Antonio V. Minniti of Bell Pharmacy in Camden, N.J., won the NCPA Foundation's NARD Ownership Award. The award recognizes an independent community pharmacist who embraces entrepreneurial spirit through promotion and demonstrated excellence in the field of community pharmacy ownership. The award is inspired by the NARD name, which was for a century the name associated with independent pharmacy. (NARD stood for National Association of Retail Druggists.)

Minniti's career path began in 1984 at age 14 when he went to work with his grandfather, Bernardo Doganiero, at his pharmacy in Camden, N.J. Minniti developed a passion for pharmacy as well as the city of Camden. In 1997, the family purchased Bell Pharmacy, the oldest pharmacy in the city of Camden. Today, Minniti owns Bell Pharmacy with his sister, pharmacist Marian Morton. Bell is currently celebrating its 90th year in business. Minniti is known for having a close relationship with the community and an innovative approach to the business of pharmacy. He has positioned Bell Pharmacy as a community health care hub that facilitates access to care. He is most vocal in advocating for increasing the pharmacist's role in improving community health outcomes.



OUTSTANDING FACULTY LIAISON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Pamela Stamm of the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy received the 2021 Outstanding Faculty Liaison Award, given by the NCPA Foundation. The award recognizes a faculty liaison who demonstrates exceptional leadership and commitment to independent community pharmacy, the NCPA student chapter, and the community.

Stamm has been an adviser of the Auburn University NCPA chapter since 2005. She has enjoyed watching the chapter evolve, promoting advocacy and networking with pharmacists throughout the state, and mentoring chapter leaders and members to help achieve goals beyond their imagination. As a teacher, Stamm has been responsible for various primary care topics within the curriculum. She currently teaches migraine, dyslipidemia, and stable ischemic heart disease therapy within the practice-ready curriculum. She also assists in immunization protocols and journal analyses.

Stamm remains active on the state and national levels in several professional societies. She is currently serving on committees within the Alabama Society of Health System Pharmacists, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Section of Pharmacy Educators, and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Education and Training Practice and Research Network. She also serves as a faculty member for the ACCP Teaching and Learning Academy.



NCPA STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The **Auburn University** Harrison School of Pharmacy was named the 2021 NCPA Student Chapter of the Year. First runner-up was the Ohio Northern University Raabe College of Pharmacy, and second runner-up was the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy was the most improved chapter.

Rachel Calhoun, Mercer University College of Pharmacy; Nadia Diyaljee, University of South Florida Taneja College of Pharmacy; Courtney Gibson, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy; Thanh Huynh, Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Cole Kendall, the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy; Erin Lyon, University of Texas College of Pharmacy; and Rowan Spence, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy.



NCPA INNOVATION CENTER OUTSTANDING ADHERENCE PRACTITIONER AWARD

Martika Martin of Danhauer Drugs and Health Equipment in Owensboro, Ky., was honored with the 2021 NCPA Innovation Center Outstanding Adherence Practitioner Award in recognition of her commitment to improving medication adherence. The award is sponsored by RxSafe.

Martin has grown two adherence programs over the last year: medication synchronization and custom packaging. She focuses on a team-based approach to enrolling patients in the program, ensuring staff members are familiar with them and can answer questions. They identify and contact patients who would benefit and advertise these services through educational bag stuffers. Martin also delegated the pharmacy's lead technician to discuss custom packaging weekly on three different radio stations. When Martin started at Danhauer Drugs, its custom packaging program had roughly 300 patients and its med sync had approximately 50 patients enrolled. As a result of their efforts to grow the programs, the pharmacy now has more than 950 patients enrolled. Other health care providers in the area have started noticing the difference the pharmacy is making for patients' health outcomes and are actively referring patients to the pharmacy for its adherence services.



CPESN LUMINARY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Alison Haas from Jackson Pharmacy & Wellness Center in Jackson Center, Ohio, was the winner of the CPESN® Luminary of the Year Award. The award, sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC, recognizes an individual who provided extraordinary contributions to their local CPESN network with respect to starting, growing, and sustaining the network. A strong luminary correlates to a strong local network.

"Our luminaries are the lifeblood of the CPESN movement. Many of the leaders of local, community pharmacy practice in America have been lighting the way for retail pharmacies as CPESN luminaries. This award celebrates one but recognizes the volunteerism and hard work of 278 others," said Joe Moose, PharmD, director of strategy and luminary development for CPESN USA. "Congratulations to Alison for being selected as this year's CPESN Luminary of the Year. Her efforts in recruiting pharmacies, inspiring others, and working with payers to showcase the value of CPESN pharmacies has been exemplary."



NATIONAL PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nikki Adams Bryant was honored as the recipient of the 2021 National Preceptor of the Year Award by the NCPA Foundation. Bryant is the owner of multiple Georgia pharmacies: Adams Family Pharmacy in Preston; Adams Family Pharmacy Too in Cuthbert; and a rural primary care clinic, Preston Family Medicine.

Bryant graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy from Mercer University College of Pharmacy in 2003. She has experience in hospital pharmacy, nursing home consulting, chain retail, and independent pharmacy. She has been a preceptor for her alma mater since graduation. Her rotation site allows for students to gain experience in advanced community pharmacy, research, medication therapy management, and ambulatory care. Bryant is also the medical representative on the Webster County Health Department board and is the Webster County Representative on the Regional Advisory Counsel for the Georgia Department Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. She is Region 3 Georgia Pharmacy Association president, and she serves on the Mercer University College of Pharmacy Alumni Board of Directors. Bryant also is the CEO of the Stewart Webster Cancer Fund, a nonprofit she founded to benefit local cancer patients.

NCPA Foundation Scholarship winners

The NCPA Foundation proudly continues the tradition of awarding college students who are pursuing community pharmacy ownership in the future. The Foundation awarded \$62,500 in educational aid to NCPA student members. McKesson Corp., along with American Associated Pharmacies, and Bloodworth Wholesalers generously supported the NCPA Foundation's Presidential Scholarship program. Several students also received recognition with the Partners in Pharmacy Scholarships, J.C. and Rhea Cobb Memorial Scholarship, the Neil Pruitt Sr. Memorial Scholarship, and the Willard B. Simmons Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Presidential scholarships are awarded to pharmacy students who have demonstrated a vision for the development of innovative pharmacy practices that stress quality patient care leading to improved patient health outcomes.

Brianne Crews	<i>Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy</i>
Olivia Denny	<i>University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>
Maggie Goode	<i>Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy</i>
Jason Lam	<i>University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy</i>
Joshua Alan Leitao	<i>Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Worcester</i>
Haley Mitchell	<i>Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy</i>
Ashley Murphy	<i>Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy</i>
Morgan Rambo	<i>Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy</i>
Lucy Rinehuls	<i>Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy</i>
Sarah Ward	<i>Union University College of Pharmacy</i>

PARTNERS IN PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Partners in Pharmacy awards scholarships to pharmacy students pursuing a career in pharmacy, recognizing exemplary academic performance, community service, and a demonstrated commitment to independent pharmacy.

Dominick de La Guardia	<i>University of the Sciences, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy</i>
Nathan Howe	<i>Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions</i>
Carly Loudermilk	<i>University of Georgia College of Pharmacy</i>

NEIL PRUITT SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Neil Pruitt Sr. Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a pharmacy student who has demonstrated interest in entrepreneurship.

Savannah Cunningham	<i>Mercer University College of Pharmacy</i>
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J.C. AND RHEBA COBB MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The J.C. and Rhea Cobb Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a pharmacy student who has demonstrated an interest in government affairs.

Abigail Carpenter	<i>Ohio Northern University Raabe College of Pharmacy</i>
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WILLARD B. SIMMONS SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Willard B. Simmons Sr. Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a pharmacy student who has shown interest in independent pharmacy management.

Benjamin Briggs Hightower	<i>University of Georgia College of Pharmacy</i>
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