

## Past Recipients of the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence

### 2010 Recipients:

**Beth Benedict's** passion is to ensure that all families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing are informed and empowered and that these children have access to high-quality services that promote success in language, literacy, and life. Beth exemplifies the best in collaboration and partnerships through her work with deaf and hearing communities. For more than twenty years she has been a mentor to families with newly identified children. Beth currently serves as the president of the American Society for Deaf Children and is a professor at Gallaudet University.

Beth has been a key figure on EHDI conference planning and proposal review committees. She regularly presents at the EHDI conference and has influenced EHDI systems to recognize and acknowledge the range of communication opportunities available to children and families. She serves as a Council on Education of the Deaf (CED) representative to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, is a member of the Maryland Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Council and is often used as a consultant on early intervention and family involvement projects. Beth's involvement in EHDI systems improvement spans topic areas, type of audience, and venue. Her respect for and sensitivity to various points of view has earned her the esteem of colleagues across the field. As the parent of two deaf children, a member of the deaf community, and a professional in academia, her experience is broad and deep.

**Albert Mehl** has been a pioneer in newborn hearing screening since 1992 when he was asked to help implement a newborn hearing screening program at Boulder Community Hospital. Little did he know that this would become his second career. He was crucial passing Colorado's newborn hearing legislation in 1997. Representing the physician's role and the importance of early identification, he helped convince legislators that newborn hearing screening was the right thing to do for all children. As a result of the legislation, a formal advisory committee was developed, and Al was selected as the chair. Twelve years later he continues to lead the advisory committee providing insight, support and practical wisdom to the ever-changing needs of EHDI programs. He serves as the American Academy of Pediatrics representative on the JCIH and has written several articles that have been published in the AAP Journal and quoted frequently. All of this while still maintaining a full time pediatric practice. As a primary health care provider, Al has been instrumental in supporting the medical home as a team approach with the audiologist, Hands & Voice parent guide and early interventionist working together for the benefit of the child and the family.

**Vicki Thomson** was the EHDI coordinator in Colorado before the official job existed. In 1991 she initiated one of the first universal screening programs in the world at Boulder Community Hospital and became the consultant for the Colorado Department of Health to promote and support Newborn Hearing Screening programs statewide shortly thereafter. She was the Newborn Screening Coordinator at the Marion Downs Hearing Center (MDHC) and has been on the Professional Advisory Committee of the MDHC since 1996. In 1998 she was instrumental in creating the Colorado Infant Hearing Advisory Board which has led to the improvement of EHDI programs in Colorado. At that time the concept of an advisory board was unique and Vickie's creativity and vision led to an advisory board concept, which became the model for other states. Under Vicki's leadership, Colorado consistently meets the EHDI goals set by the Joint Committee for Infant Hearing and has become a model that is emulated by many other states.

### 2009 Recipients: Leanne Seaver and Janet DesGeorges

### 2008 Recipients: Judith Gravel & Mary Hartnett

(more information about the accomplishments of each of the recipients of the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence can be found at <http://ehdiconference.org/Award.cfm>)