

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP ANNOUNCES ANNUAL AWARD NOMINEES

SCOTTSDALE, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), Inc. announced the nominees for its annual membership awards. Winners will be announced in conjunction with NCPDP's 2005 Annual Conference March 5 – 9, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Award was established to recognize individual members of NCPDP who have accomplished an outstanding achievement or have shown exemplary leadership and service on behalf of the Council. The following members have been nominated: **Roy J. Bussewitz, R.Ph., J.D.**, Vice President, Telecommunication Standards, National Association of Chain Drug Stores; **Karen Eckert, R.Ph.**, Project Manager, Medi-Span, Inc.; **Keith Fisher, R.Ph., MS**, Clinical Solutions Consultant, SXC Health Solutions, Inc.; **John Lavin, MBA, MPH**, Vice President, Caremark Inc.; **Kimberly Smithers**, Medicaid Systems Specialist; Division of Health Care Financing.

The purpose of The Individual Member Excellence (TIME) Award is to recognize, honor and thank individual members of NCPDP who have unselfishly devoted considerable and sustained personal time, effort and other contributions toward meeting the goals and objectives of the Council as established by the Board of Trustees. The following members have been nominated: **Linda Campbell, BS**, Director, Information Technology, Smith Premier Services; **John Lavin, MBA, MPH**, Vice President, Caremark, Inc.; **Margaret Weiker**, Director BES HC Product, Standards and Sales, EDS.

The Rising Star Award is designed to recognize individual new members of NCPDP who in their first two (2) years of membership have risen above the norm to become actively involved in the organization by participating in work groups, committees and voting canvass groups. The following member has been nominated: **James McCain, R.Ph.**, Health Care Information Architect, Department of Veteran Affairs.

“Since NCPDP’s inception by our founding members, the Council has continued to be driven by the innovations and foresight of our membership,” stated Lee Ann Stember, President. “These awards are a fitting tribute to the dedication and commitment of those who have kept NCPDP on the forefront of standards development for nearly three decades.”

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About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization (SDO). With approximately 1,400 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry, NCPDP has made great strides over the last 25 years. NCPDP has established HCIda, a new service that will create a healthcare identifier for individual healthcare prescribers. The NCPDP Provider Identification Number provides over 68,000 pharmacies with a unique identifying number for interactions with federal agencies and third party processors. NCPDP has eleven (11) active Work Groups dedicated to the technological advancement of pharmacy through standards development. NCPDP's Telecommunication Standard Version 5.1 and Batch Standard Version 1.1 were named the official standards for pharmacy claims in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's Final Rule. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and NCPDP Work Group meetings, visit the NCPDP website at www.ncdp.org.

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