



2010 Bonnie Teater
Community Development Educator

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Sue E. Williams
Oklahoma State University

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Sue E. Williams as a 2010 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. Williams is a Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University.

Williams has undertaken a leadership role within Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the southern region, and at the Kettering Foundation, a premiere organization conducting policy work, where she serves as a National Faculty and as a Community Politics Team Co-Leader to the Foundation. Starting in 1977, she joined with colleagues in home economics, agricultural engineering and communications to craft a new Extension program in residential energy management. When the need for this programming faded over the following ten years, she shifted to the growing demand in the fields of environmental education and environment police, and as time continued, the health implications of personal energy management decisions as well as public environmental decisions.

One of Williams' greatest skills is focusing her efforts in areas of emerging need. Staying aware of the changing priorities of her audience, she began a remarkable career in public deliberation and leadership development. Williams' interests span helping communities tackle many issues including health, obesity, the use of water resources, land use, concentrated animal feeding operations, underage drinking, casinos, end of life, defining marriage, and domestic violence.

David Matthews, President of the Kettering Foundation, said "Her efforts have helped Cooperative Extension understand its community development role differently; this work is laudable."

"I cannot overstate the importance of Dr. Williams' efforts," Sharon M. S. Gibson, Multicultural Extension Specialist said. "Not only for the citizens of Oklahoma but for all of us endeavoring to engage citizens at the grassroots level. Her work is even more important today than when she started; with growing distrust of government the need to engage citizens on the community level is critical if we hope to develop common ground for positive civic action. Her work is the foundation of building a truly democratic society."

Some national awards Williams has received include the American Evaluation Association Excellence in Program Award, a Leader Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Chaulkey-Fenn Public Scholar Award. In addition, Williams and her colleagues have been award the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Outstanding Program Team Award.

"Dr. Williams has mastered teaching community members and leaders how to engage around often emotion-filled issues. I've seen her moderate difficult topics with diverse community members and skillfully guide them through the challenging business of civic engagement," said Bonnie Braun, PhD, Endowed Chair and Director, Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy.

For Williams' passion, energy, and professional commitment to civic-centered engagement strategies in the Southern region and beyond, it is most fitting that Williams be honored as a Southern Rural Development Center 2010 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award.

About the Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award



Bonnie Teater is a special individual to friends of the Southern Rural Development Center. For 30 years, she provided valuable support and day-to-day assistance to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration to all because of the dedication she brought to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's land-grant schools. She currently is enjoying retirement in her home state of Kentucky.

Award Selection Process

This important award is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center for the purpose of honoring the superior accomplishments of an Extension educator from the Southern region. Eligibility is limited to individuals who meet the following conditions:

- Currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region, and whose principal work is in the area of community development. Individuals who have retired from one of these institutions during the calendar year in which nominations are sought are eligible as well.
- Extension educators who have worked in the CD area for at least TEN years
- Extension educators with a CD focus working in a state, multi-county, or county level positions

Furthermore, it is required that nomination packets be assembled and submitted to the SRDC by the deadline date. These packets include:

- A primary letter of nomination prepared by an Extension educator or administrator in the South having an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee.
- Select examples of CD Products developed by the nominee
- Support letters from up to three individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension CD work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's lifetime achievements in advancing CD work within a variety of arenas (i.e., state, region, national, international)

All packets submitted by the deadline date are evaluated by a subcommittee of the SRDC Technical and Operational Advisory Committee (TOAC), a group composed of land-grant university faculty and other rural development partners in the region. It is this subcommittee that selects the *Teater Lifetime Achievement* awardee.

