

## **Omaha System Awards 2011**

The first awards for meaningful and continued contributions to the Omaha System in Practice, Education, and Research were presented at the April 8-9, 2011 Omaha System International Conference in Eagan, Minnesota. These awards will be given every two years in conjunction with the International Conferences. The nomination process is not difficult. Please begin to think about making a nomination for the 2013 awards. A committee of Board members makes the selections.

Suzanne Plemmons, RN, MN, PHCNS-BC, received the Excellence in Practice Award. As the Community Health Director of the Kitsap County Health District, Bremerton, Washington, Suzanne became aware of the System in 2003 and led the effort to use the System to standardize documentation of public health outcome data at the local and state levels. She was instrumental in development of core pathways for use in Parent Child Health Programs, and standardized documentation of the State Dept of Health's Children with Special Health needs programs. She helped organize a Washington State Users Group. In addition to her efforts in Washington State, Suzanne has generously lent her expertise serving as a subject matter expert to public health agencies in Oregon as they began to explore use of the System.

Karen A. Monsen, RN, PhD, received the Excellence in Education Award. Karen has a long history of using, researching, and teaching the System. As the Program Director at the Washington County Public Health and Environment, Stillwater Minnesota, she introduced the Omaha System to staff nurses in 1998 and was instrumental in founding the Minnesota Omaha System Users Group. She has worked with this group of practitioners to create practice standards and evidence based pathways. Since 2007, Karen has been on faculty at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing not only teaching the System to students but acting as a consultant to state and local health departments nationally and internationally.

Kathryn H. Bowles, RN, PhD, FAAN, received the Excellence in Research Award. Kathy began her work with the Omaha System in 1996 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She extended the System from its traditional roots in home and community-based care to acute care, and successfully integrated her informatics expertise into the application of the Omaha System as exemplified in the Transitional Care research at the University of Pennsylvania. Kathy and her team have provided evidence to link nursing interventions to patient outcomes and proved the effectiveness of APN (advanced practice nurse) care using the System. She is a well-known scholar nationally and internationally and has been invited to provide numerous speeches and consultation visits. She has published over 15 articles and book chapters on topics related to the Omaha System.