



Dr. Gail A. McClure Proffitt



Dr. Gail Proffitt was elected twice to the office of president of the North Central College Health Association. She advocated for the adoption of a student-centered approach to health services. In the process, Dr. Proffitt helped to fashion the contemporary model for the delivery of student health services. In 1972 she was presented an outstanding service award. NCCHA later established the Gail A. Proffitt Recognition Award as a special tribute to her for work in the area of College Health.

The intent of the award is to recognize special people and to acknowledge the unique service or expertise they bring to the field of college health.

1972 – Gail Proffitt	1994 – Pat Utecht	2010 – Gayle Nelson
1973 – Lawrence Nelson & William Watson	1995 – Larry Hudson	2011 – Leeann Nelson
1975 – Dorothy Jaconson	1996 – Robert Patterson	2012 – Pamela Gray
1978 – Florence Winquest & Margarethe Hansen	1997 – Lynn Ebner	2013 – Caren Barnett
1979 – Karen Delesha, Judy Dulski, & Ramona Yunger	1998 – Jane Larson	2014 – Ruth Swisher
1980 – Edward Dvorak	1999 – Pat Veole	2015 – Randy Hurd
1982 – Paul Rupprecht & Barbara Lee	2000 – Mary Khowassah	2017 – Susan Thorson
1984 – Greta Buller	2001 – Don Smith	
1985 – JW Hanson & Lorraine Stucky	2002 – Barbara Bloomer	
1986 – Harley Feldick	2003 – Barbara Bester	
1987 – Kathleen McNamara	2004 – Edward Ehlinger & Donald Craig	
1989 – Corinne Schaure	2005 – James Rothenberger	
1990 – Mary Jule Brown & Doris Haukebo	2006 – Kathleen Poi	
1991 – Malcom McCutcheon	2007 – Alan Allery	
1992 – Janice Rising	2008 – Dana Mills	
1993 – Mary Engstrom	2009 – Paul Baumert & Diane Palm	

Dr. Proffitt received her B.S. and doctor of medicine degrees from the University of Iowa. From 1931 to 1933 she was a medical resident and intern at Albany Hospital in Albany, New York. Dr. Proffitt spent a year in her hometown of Bussey, Iowa practicing rural general medicine with her father, and from 1934 to 1936 she worked for the University of Kansas as a staff physician.

In 1936 she moved to Iowa and began her service to the Iowa State University Hospital as a physician. In 1959 she became the Assistant Director, and in 1964 she became the director. After devoting 35 years to college health, she retired August 31, 1973. The following quote is from a memorial resolution “More often than not, Gail A. Proffitt spent her evenings reading soaring thermometers and easing pain. We feel that it is imperative that gratitude be expressed for one who gave so unselfishly of herself to Iowa State University. Gail inadvertently summarized her life in a January 8, 1972 ISU Daily article where she was quoted as saying, ‘I have always wanted to do more for people than they have done for me.’ – Lorraine L. Stucky, Jean R. McClugage, Geraldine M. Montag. “She will be remembered with respect because of her professional ability and honest counsel.” “A physician who really cared about her patients.” “There was always a lot of confidence placed in her direction.” These comments reflect the expressions of faculty, staff, and former students of Iowa State University in learning of the death of Dr. Gail A. McClure Proffitt.” She died of cancer on August 17, 1983.