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## AMERICAN SCHOOL HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

September 5, 2017 (McLean, VA) – The American School Health Association (ASHA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2017 ASHA Awards. Each year, ASHA recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence in the field of school health. The recipients of the 2017 ASHA Awards will be recognized Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, during ASHA’s Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.

“The ASHA Awards Luncheon is one of the conference’s most special events,” said Sharon Murray, MHSE, FASHA, ASHA President. “ASHA’s awards program recognizes professional excellence and thought leaders who make a difference in our school communities for the health and success of the nation’s students.”

This year’s award recipients are:

### **William A. Howe Award**

*Charles E. Basch, PhD, Richard March Hoe Professor of Health and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY*

The William A. Howe Award, ASHA’s highest honor, recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions and distinguished service in school health. It was established to honor William A. Howe, MD, a founder and first president of the association. This award acknowledges the recipient’s outstanding professional contributions paralleling the aims and objectives of the Association.

### **Outstanding School Health Educator of the Year Award**

*Darin Nolan, MEd, Physical Education & Health Education Teacher/Department Chair, Bellingham High School, Bellingham, WA*

The School Health Educator of the Year Award recognizes an ASHA member who has demonstrated outstanding contribution to school health education in the K-12 setting.

### **Dr. Robert Synovitz Emerging Professional Award**

*Elizabeth A. Whitney, PhD, CHES, Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology & Health Promotion, College of Education, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY*

The Dr. Robert Synovitz Emerging Professional Award acknowledges new professionals as promising future leaders in the field of school health. It was established to honor Dr. Robert Synovitz, a past president of the association. The award may be granted to two individuals (one individual in a school health practitioner setting and the other in an academia setting) who positively impact youth within the K-12 school setting.

### **Legislator of the Year**

*Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell, California State Assembly, District 70*

The Legislator of the Year Award recognizes a state or federal legislator who has a record of supporting issues related to school health and/or has taken an important stand on school health issues during a particular legislative session.

### **Fellow**

*Elisa “Beth” McNeill, PhD, CHES, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Health & Kinesiology, Texas A&M University*

Advancement to Fellowship Status is granted to ASHA members who demonstrate leadership and service to ASHA and to the field of school health.

ASHA's Annual School Health Conference, Connecting Health and Learning, held October 11-13<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, MO, will provide school health professionals and interested stakeholders with stimulating workshops and research presentations, as well as opportunities to network with like-minded colleagues across the various school health disciplines.

For more information about this event, please visit [www.ashaweb.org](http://www.ashaweb.org).

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**About the [American School Health Association \(ASHA\)](http://www.ashaweb.org):** The American School Health Association envisions healthy students who learn and achieve in safe and healthy environments nurtured by caring adults functioning within coordinated school and community support systems. The mission of the organization is to transform all schools into places where every student learns and thrives. Professions represented in this multidisciplinary organization include administrators, counselors, dietitians, nutritionists, health educators, physical educators, psychologists, school health coordinators, school nurses, school physicians, and social workers. For more information, visit [www.ashaweb.org](http://www.ashaweb.org).

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