



LIFE TIME ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

Every once and a while we are lucky enough to be in the presence of those individuals who have served an organization for the better part of their life. By today's standards, it's rare to witness commitment, passion, and longevity dancing together for so long. At this moment MCA would like to thank and recognize an individual who has served as a past president. One fellow past leader said that this individual "has been committed to the good of MCA for as long as I have known him. Whether I agreed with him or not, I never doubted that he cared about the association and its well-being."

The person we wish to honor has been a member of MCA for 44 years and has served on MCA's governing council for 25 years. 20 of those years were spent chairing the by-laws committee. This person was instrumental in assisting and writing 65% of our licensure law. He served 8 years on the Board of Counseling for the State of Michigan, and was the Midwest Region Chair of the American Counseling Association.

It is not surprising to hear positive comments from fellow MCA members and leaders. Here are just a few:

- Always had MCA's greatest good as priority
- Saw the big picture
- He's a great mentor.

We would like to end with an excerpt that was actually written by our awardee.

"Every professional organization has a history; not only an organizational history, but a societal history as well. Professional organizations do not spring up spontaneously. They result when a number of like-minded professionals make a decision that the profession can best be served by establishing a vehicle for professional development, developing programs, and organizing for potential political power. In an emerging profession, this is usually accomplished after a critical mass of practitioners have been practicing for a few years. However, before this phenomenon occurs there must be within the society certain experiences, pressures and/or values that create a need for the original practitioners to exist. Just as professional organizations do not develop spontaneously, neither do the original practitioners appear spontaneously. They appear because of a perceived societal need for their skills."

These words rang true since the conception of MCA and continue to ring true as we look toward the future of counseling within the state of Michigan. One thing is for certain though; the field of counseling in Michigan would not be the same without John Geisler.