



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

2021 NCSBN Awards Ceremony - 2020 Award Recipient – David Swankin Video Transcript

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Event

2021 NCSBN Awards Ceremony

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/16100.htm>

Presenter

NCSBN Awards Committee

♪ [music] ♪ - [Announcer] 2020 Distinguished Achievement Award. David Swankin has spent his career serving the public interest. He was the first Executive Director of the White House Office of Consumer Affairs in the mid-1960s, served as Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards, and Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S.

Department of Labor. David also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. As President and CEO of the Citizen Advocacy Center, he has worked closely with NCSBN for more than two decades. He has a sincere interest in focus on issues of importance in nursing regulation. He has researched and written extensively about the need for consumer input on health profession boards, the need for board transparency, and most importantly, the need for full practice authority for advanced practice registered nurses.

David has been a leading force in bringing together experts from the legal, consumer, and regulatory realms to explore relevant topics to nursing regulation, including disciplinary processes, alternative to discipline programs, and practitioner remediation in lieu of discipline. David was selected by the NCSBN board of directors to lead the review and comment from a public perspective on the outcomes of NCSBN's Regulation 2030 meeting.

Additionally, he has collaborated with NCSBN in publications, conferences, and presentations. He also participated in networking sessions for public board of nursing members, and has reviewed several nursing regulatory bodies' alternative to discipline programs. For his advocacy, support, and promotion of NCSBN's mission and vision, David received the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2020.

- [David] Hi, everybody, thank you so much for giving the National...the Citizen Advocacy Center, the National Council giving us the Distinguished Achievement Award to me. There it is. And we were thrilled to get it, I was thrilled to get it.

To be honest with you, I think it should have gone to the organization. We're very small and I'm one person of about 5 or 6 or 10 of us that are active in it, have been active in it since it began. And I think that...anyway, I accept it in behalf of the organization because it's the organization that has done the work.

I'm a co-founder of the organization, the other co-founder is Becky LeBuhn, who serves as the chair of the board. And the two of us had much to do by developing the PREP program and I want to take my short amount of time, I think that might be the reason that we received this award.

The PREP program was nationally recognized as a program designed to identify practitioners, health practitioners, and we did it with boards of nursing and we asked boards of nursing and boards of medicine from around the country if they'd like to participate. And participate meant that you do something besides slapping people down when they do something so bad that they ought to have their license taken away or limited, and that's what the discipline program is of most house licensing boards.

But we thought that wouldn't it be nice if we could run a program that would find people before that happened, an early identification program. And that meant finding a board that was willing to do it, that was willing to not compromise their discipline program, but to find some of the people that they deal with all the time, hospitals, nursing homes, other types of providers that said, "We would like to be a participant in a program that identified persons that needed early intervention."

And that's what the PREP program is, it's an early intervention program. And I think the reason we got this award was because there was a recognition on the part of the National Council, on the part of the boards that participated, that this was a really good idea and maybe we can spread it widely.

I know that it's been described many times at meetings of both the individual nursing boards and in NCSBN. And I think there's been a lot of interest on the part of other boards of nursing that said, "We ought to try something like that, that's a good idea."

We don't think of ourselves as traffic cops hiding in the bushes, that's not how we think of ourselves. We think of ourselves as protecting the public and doing that any way we can. And early identification would be great, the more we can find it, and that's what we did. And so, thank you so much for this award. Speaking for all of us, we appreciate it very, very much.