

Founder's Scholarship Award

This year NCSPOD was proud to announce a new scholarship opportunity for members to attend the annual conference. The Founder's Scholarship Award is an outgrowth of our 30th anniversary celebration which was held during last year's conference in Buffalo. If you were at that conference, you saw Roland Terrell receive an honorary lifetime membership in recognition of his crucial role in getting NCSPOD started and his leadership as our first President. After the conference, Roland wanted to establish a Founder's Award and contributed his own money to this end. Unfortunately he was not able to be here this year to announce the first winner but instead asked Gordon Watts, an early NCSPOD leader who is still active with us, to do the honor in his absence.

The NCSPOD Board of Directors enthusiastically approved the creation of the Founders' Scholarship Award to honor those who led the organization during the first thirty years of its history and to acknowledge the creativity and leadership skills among its current members.

This \$500 scholarship is granted to enable a current member of NCSPOD to attend the annual conference. The criteria for selection were three years of experience in the Staff, Program, Organizational Development (SPOD) and demonstrated leadership and creativity within SPOD.

The first winner of the Founder's Scholarship Award is **Dawn P. Mitchell, Executive Secretary to the President at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem, NC.**

Dawn has been a member of NCSPOD for 8 years. Forsyth Technical Community College currently does not have a Professional Development Coordinator or designated office area. Because of Dawn's passion for Professional Development, she has stepped up and taken the lead on Professional Development and serves as the chair of both the Professional Development Committee and Professional Development Funding Committee.

Her regular college position is so demanding that she works on Professional Development from home in the evenings and on weekends. Her committee operates with a zero (0) annual budget, using in-house employees and community leaders to present sessions free-of-charge.

Among the activities coordinated under her leadership are: an annual Professional Development Day, Lunch-n-Learn sessions, a small speaker series, a monthly New Employee Orientation, the Meet the Administrator series, the Forsyth Tech Cycle of Life and a variety of creative wellness initiatives.

Dawn has set high standards for herself and the programs her committee develops and she is dedicated to making sure that Professional Development becomes entrenched at Forsyth Tech, despite a "here today, gone tomorrow" history.

She credits all of her "hope, fire, and motivation" to NCSPOD and the ideas she gets by attending our conferences where, during a New Practitioners Session at the 2000 conference, she learned about the "Create and Share Everything" concept.

NCSPOD is pleased to award its first Founder's Scholarship Award to someone who so fittingly represents what Roland and the other founding members of our organization set out to accomplish so many years ago.

Congratulations Dawn!