



## **THE 2015 WALTER F. SNYDER AWARD**

for Achievement in Advancing Environmental Health

Presented by NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association to

**RON GRIMES, RS, MPH, DAAS**

Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS is the 2015 recipient of the distinguished Walter F. Snyder award in recognition of more than 40 years of significant and lasting contributions to environmental and public health through his work on consensus national standards, education, leadership and public service. The award honors NSF International's co-founder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder.

Mr. Grimes retired earlier this year after 45 years in environmental health roles in industry and health departments. He most recently served as manager of environmental health programs at NSF International where he established, managed and expanded support programs for state and local health departments by providing technical support on NSF standards, certifications and general environmental health code compliance issues. He presented seminars to national, state and local audiences and supported NSF International programs through webinars and training classes. He served as the "man with the answers" for regulatory officials and inspectors seeking standards interpretation and the myriad of findings during health department inspections. Mr. Grimes supported the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants in overseeing the public health ratification of the many standards committees at NSF.

Prior to joining NSF International, Mr. Grimes served as the health officer for the Jackson County Health Department in Michigan for four years. In this role, he managed the implementation and direction of environmental health services, health education,

nursing, clinics and other community health programs. He also was a member of the Drinking Water Additives Joint Committee that oversaw the development and maintenance of the standards NSF/ANSI 60 and NSF/ANSI 61.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Grimes spent 33 years working for the Oakland County Health Division in various leadership roles. As a sanitarian, he developed a systematic review procedure for plans submitted for approval to the Environmental Health Services division, which was the first program of its kind in Michigan. As a supervising sanitarian, he oversaw the response to the first declared toxic emergency in Michigan when 8,000 drums of hazardous waste were discovered at an unauthorized waste disposal site. As a water quality and land protection supervisor, he organized the first collection day for household hazardous waste and initiated the procedure of inspecting businesses that generate hazardous waste. He also served as administrator of environmental health services, overseeing all aspects of environmental health at the county.

Mr. Grimes has been active in multiple national and state environmental and public health organizations. He has held leadership positions in NEHA, including a five-year role on the executive board culminating in president. He also served as president of the Michigan Environmental Health Association, president of the Michigan Association for Local Public Health's Environmental Health Forum, and trustee and chair of the National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators. He received a Michigan Environmental Health Association Special Recognition Award and has been a Diplomat of the American

Academy of Sanitarians for 25 years.

Mr. Grimes viewed the future of environmental health as dependent on the students that eventually make up the workforce at health departments. As such, he took an active role in the NSF International Summer Scholarship for Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) students. He helped supervise the students' projects, explained how NSF International standards support various public health codes and encouraged collaboration with health departments to provide a motivating real-world experience.

"Ron Grimes' achievements reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International," says Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF International President and CEO. "His extensive knowledge of environmental health and his commitment to educating regulators and environmental health professionals demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of environmental health. Ron played a key role in expanding NSF International's regulatory outreach programs as well as educating sanitarians and health officials about the details and importance of

NSF International standards, inspections and certification programs." "Ron's leadership at the two health departments he directed, as well as his NEHA leadership and his role at NSF International, establish him as a highly regarded and respected leader in the environmental health community. He believes deeply in the mission of protecting public health and has earned the trust of colleagues he has worked with, which is fundamental to true leadership," says David T. Dyjack, Dr.PH, CIH, Executive Director and CEO of NEHA.

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### Walter F. Snyder

Executive Director, National Sanitation Foundation (Now NSF International), 1944 - 1965

For ten years, Walter F. Snyder directed the environmental health program for the City of Toledo, Ohio. Through his studies and first-hand experience, he was convinced that progress on countless vital problems of public health could best be resolved by bringing representatives of government, industry and user groups together on neutral ground where they could discuss their differences and reconcile their viewpoints. In 1944, Walter F. Snyder resigned from his position in Toledo and returned to the University of Michigan to help found the National Sanitation Foundation at the School of Public Health. He served as Executive Director until his death in 1965.



The Walter F. Snyder Award is presented annually by NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association to a recipient who has achieved peer recognition for outstanding accomplishment in the field of environmental health, for notable contributions to public health and the quality of life, for work with all interests in solving environmental health problems, for utilizing voluntary consensus standards to attain environmental health objectives, and for leadership in securing action toward advancement of environmental health goals.

#### *The Past Recipients of the Walter F. Snyder Award*

1971 Callis A. Atkins	1988 Mark D. Hollis	1997 J. Roy Hickman
1972 Ralph C. Pickard	1989 Boyd T. Marsh	1998 Chris J. Wiant
1973 William A. Broadway	1990 Harvey F. Collins	1999 Khalil H. Mancy
1974 James J. Jump	1991 Trenton G. Davis	2000 Friedrich K. Kaefenstein
1975 Charles L. Senn	1992 Robert Galvan	2001 Robert W. Powitz
1977 Charles C. Johnson, Jr.	1993 Amer El-Ahraf	2002 Gayle J. Smith
1978 Larry J. Gordon	1994 Nelson E. Fabian	2004 Peter D. Thornton
1979 John G. Todd	1995 Leonard F. Rice	2005 John B. Conway
1980 Ray B. Watts	1996 Robert M. Brown	2006 Arthur L. Banks
1981 Charles H. Gillham		2007 Wilfried Kreisel
1982 Emil T. Chanlett		2008 Craig A. Shepherd
1983 John R. Bagby, Jr.		2009 Terrance B. Gratton
1984 William Nix Anderson		2010 James J. Balsamo, Jr.
1985 William G. Walter		2011 Gary P. Noonan
1986 Albert H. Brunwasser		2012 Harry E. Grenawitzke
1987 George A. Kupfer		2013 Vincent J. Radke
		2014 Priscilla Oliver

