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South Dakota Pharmacists Association

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****South Dakota Pharmacists Association Honors 2026 Award Recipients at 140th Annual Convention**

PIERRE, S.D. – September 17, 2026 – The South Dakota Pharmacists Association (SDPhA) recognized five pharmacy professionals during its 140th Annual Convention, held September 10–12 in Brookings.

The annual awards recognize leadership, service, professionalism and contributions to pharmacy, patient care and communities across South Dakota.

“Celebrating the people who serve this profession so well is one of the most meaningful parts of our annual convention,” said Amanda Bacon, SDPhA Executive Director. “This year’s recipients represent the very best of South Dakota pharmacy. They lead, serve, advocate, innovate and work tirelessly on behalf of their patients, their communities and their profession.”

Sandi Shay – Pharmacy Technician of the Year

Shay began her pharmacy career 46 years ago at Vilas Drug in Pierre, where her earliest prescription labels were typed on a typewriter. In 1995, after 15 years as a technician, she was among the first group of women to become Certified Pharmacy Technicians in South Dakota.

As pharmacy practice evolved, Shay was among the early technicians in the state to work with telepharmacy technology. After 36 years in Pierre, she moved to Lead to help launch a new Vilas telepharmacy operation. Ten years later, she is firmly rooted in the community and continues to be recognized for her dedication to patients, community involvement and support of technician education.

John McCloud – Outstanding Industry Salesperson of the Year

McCloud has spent 25 years in pharmaceutical sales, including the past four years working in cardiology with Novartis in the Rapid City area. He works with hospital, clinical and

medication therapy management pharmacists to provide timely education and resources that support care for patients at risk for cardiovascular disease. Pharmacists praise his professionalism, responsiveness, respect for their time and proactive communication.

Benjamin Ostebee – Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award

The Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award recognizes newer pharmacists for professional association involvement and community service. A 2022 South Dakota State University graduate, Ostebee completed an executive residency with the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), contributing to professional events, advocacy work and publications.

Now a pharmacist with Lewis Drug, Ostebee has helped lead a pharmacy transition, serves as Legislative Liaison to the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP) and as an SDPhA district officer, and mentors student pharmacists.

Trisha Hadrick – Bowl of Hygeia Award

The Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists with an outstanding record of community service. Hadrick, a 2004 graduate of South Dakota State University, serves as Pharmacist in Charge at Faulkton Drug in Faulkton and Randall Pharmacy in Redfield.

For the past four years, Hadrick has served as an EMT for Faulk County Ambulance. She also serves as County Coordinator for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit that builds and delivers beds to children in need. Her other service includes local business and community groups, youth sports and recreation programs, and her church.

Jessica Strobl – Hustead Award

The Hustead Award recognizes career contributions or significant accomplishments with a lasting positive impact on pharmacy. Strobl earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South Dakota State University in 2004. She began her career with Liebe Drug in Milbank and held several leadership roles with Lewis Drug after its 2014 acquisition of the pharmacy. She became Lewis Drug's Vice President of Pharmacy in 2025.

Strobl oversees clinical pharmacy programs, policies and procedures, pharmacy procurement, and supports compliance and operations. A Past President of SDPhA, she has served on the SDSU Pharmacy Advisory Council and as Site Coordinator for South Dakota's only PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Residency Program. She has represented pharmacists before state and federal policymakers and served on national professional committees.

Strobl also supports Feeding South Dakota, Active Generations Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. She and her husband established a scholarship at South Dakota State University for students committed to community pharmacy, patient care and rural communities.

Six Pharmacists Recognized for 50 Years of Licensure

SDPhA also recognized six pharmacists who first earned their South Dakota licenses 50 years ago: Brian Erstad of Tucson, AZ; Terrence Hoffman of Sioux Falls, SD; J. Paul Meyer of Grand Island, NE; Marsha Raebel of Centennial, CO; Helen Russell of Rochester, MN; and Dan Somsen of Yankton, SD. Each was honored with a 50-year pin and certificate.

New Board Leadership

SDPhA also introduced its new leadership for the upcoming year. The newly elected officers include:

- President: Scout Forbes-Hurd, Brookings
- President-Elect: Jeremy Daniel, Sioux Falls
- Vice President: Sarah Andersen, Mobridge
- Treasurer: Elliot Hinricher, Huron
- At-Large Board Members: and Eric Grocott, Montrose and Austin Block, Canton
- Immediate Past President: Chelsea Conway, Rapid City

About the South Dakota Pharmacists Association

Founded in 1886, the South Dakota Pharmacists Association is the state's professional association representing pharmacists and the profession of pharmacy. SDPhA advances pharmacy practice, supports pharmacy professionals, advocates for patients and the profession, and strengthens pharmacy care across South Dakota.

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