



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington, DC 20420**

**IL 10-2008-007**

In reply to: 144

**March 12, 2008**

**UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAVID M. WORTHEN AWARD  
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

1. This letter announces the 2008 David M. Worthen Award for Academic Excellence. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is recognized nationally as a leader in the education of health care professionals. This contribution was greatly enhanced through the dedication of the former head of Academic Affairs, the late David M. Worthen, MD, whom the award commemorates.
2. The award may be given annually to recognize a VHA employee who has made a major contribution of national significance towards education in the health professions. The recipient receives a plaque and a cash award of \$5,000. A plaque also is presented to the facility at which the recipient is employed.
3. Facility Directors need to submit their facility nominee(s) to the Chief Academic Affiliations Officer (14), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Each facility may submit no more than one nomination.
4. In order to be eligible, the nominee must be currently employed at least 5/8-time in VHA as of the application closing date of April 30, 2008. Nominees may be employed in any health profession. When the contribution is a collaborative effort of two or more individuals, then all relevant individuals may be nominated as a team. Previous nominees are encouraged to reapply. Updated nomination packages are required for previous nominees.
5. The following materials needs to be submitted as the nomination package:
  - a. A current curriculum vitae, resume, or other summary of education and pertinent work history.
  - b. Letters of support, including comments on the nominee's contributions to the educational mission of VHA. The letters of support may come from the Academic Partnership Council, facility Education Committee, Director, other Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), and/or VHA Central Office Program Offices. Letters of support from non-VA sources are also encouraged.
  - c. Description of recent significant achievement that enhances educational programs within VA, such as innovative educational methods, especially in our non-traditional settings (ambulatory care sites, etc.), curricula, strengthened relationships between VA and the academic

community, and/or educational research. The description must be submitted in the following format: **NOTE:** *The nomination will be automatically rejected if any other format is used.*

- (1) Summary of the Contribution.
  - (2) Statement of Goal or Problem Addressed by Contribution.
  - (3) Process and/or Method of Accomplishment.
  - (4) Impact Statement (e.g., the measure of improvement, added value, or improved outcomes, etc.)
6. Evaluation of the nominations include:
- a. National significance of educational endeavor.
  - b. The contribution to VHA's educational mission.
  - c. The extent to which the contribution strengthens existing, or encourages new, beneficial relationships between VHA and other educational organizations or institutions.
  - d. The originality, creativity, and innovation of the achievement.
  - e. The nominee's national stature.
  - f. Evidence that the nominee is the major motivational force behind the achievement.
  - g. Indications of VHA-wide impact.
  - h. The potential for intra- and/or extra-VHA transferability.
  - i. The nature and extent of the tangible and intangible benefits.
  - j. The complexity of the subject addressed by the achievement.
7. To be eligible, a complete nomination package should be submitted through the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations web-based system no later than April 30, 2008. **NOTE:** *No faxes or paper submissions will be accepted.* Questions may be directed to Robert Hinson (14) at (202) 357-4019 or e-mailed to [robert.hinson@va.gov](mailto:robert.hinson@va.gov). **NOTE:** *Access: <http://vaww.oaa.med.va.gov/> for web-based data entry through the Office of Academic Affiliations Support Center. Select "Log In" and enter your User Name or E-mail Address and Password. If you have forgotten your password, select "I Forgot My Password." If you are a first time user, select "I Need to Register." It is strongly recommended that education coordinators at medical facilities, who already have access be the focal point for submitting*

*nominations. It should not be necessary to have multiple individuals applying for access to the Support Center. After login, select Enter for the “Worthen Award Nomination” database. The screen will then default to the Worksheet.*

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP  
Under Secretary for Health

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