Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award

In recognition of a mutually beneficial and sustained campus–community research partnership.

Sally R. Davis
and
Pamela S. Whitten

The Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award is supported by the MSU Quality Fund.
The Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award honors Pamela S. Whitten, professor of telecommunication, information studies, and media, and Sally R. Davis, director of the Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network based at Marquette General Health System. The partnership is an exemplary model of campus–community collaboration that applies rigorous research methods to test the implementation and effects of telemedicine services for residents of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Dr. Whitten is recognized nationally for her cutting-edge research in the use of communication technologies to deliver health services and information to underserved populations. She has generated more than $7 million in research funding from a wide array of federal, state, and private funders. Her scholarly work is published widely in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and she was recognized by the National Library of Medicine and American Medical Women’s Association as a “Local Legend in Medicine.”

Ms. Davis is a passionate advocate for identifying solutions that enable rural residents to have complete access to a wide array of health services. She also has obtained multiple federal grants for the Upper Peninsula to address the quality of life for their residents.
Professor Whitten and Ms. Davis have coauthored several peer-reviewed papers and regularly present together at regional and national conferences. They are serving the needs of Midwesterners in three states through a newly funded federal grant for a telehealth resource center entitled Midwest Alliance for Telehealth and Technology Resources (MATTER). Their partnership embodies three key objectives: to identify innovative solutions to ensure access to quality health care for rural residents, to conduct pragmatic research to document outcomes and explanations for success and failure, and to serve as a resource for other health-care stakeholders from around the world.

Their successes over the past decade provide visible evidence that Pamela S. Whitten and Sally R. Davis deserve recognition for the groundbreaking work that has resulted from their collaboration.