

VCU School of Dentistry

WISDM Professional Achievement Award

Carole Pratt, D.D.S.



Dr. Carole Pratt lives by the credo, "If it is to be, it is up to me." Her leadership experience is as extensive as her qualifications are impressive. Since graduating from dental school at VCU in 1976 she has worked as a private practice dentist in rural Southwest Virginia. But her skilled participation and willing immersion in public policy and her focus on access to health care in rural and other underserved areas set her apart.

Dr. Pratt sees a vital connection linking health care access, economic opportunity and overall quality of life. The breadth and depth of her committee and advisory group appointments evidence her commitment to improving the health of her patients, her community and the Commonwealth. She has been active on the Virginia Board of Health, Virginia Rural Health Association, Economic Development Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Medical Assistance Services, and a variety of other public policy groups. If you count all of her "President" and "Chairman" titles, it is very clear Dr. Pratt is a creative leader, not just a follower. Friends and colleagues describe her as an articulate and highly motivated self starter. They say, "Carole is the complete package, having an amazing grasp of statewide issues and concerns."

Her resume speaks for itself and speaks volumes, but Dr. Pratt doesn't talk about her volunteer roles. Few people would realize how many state-wide positions she has held through the years because she never mentions them. Her accomplishments and honors seem to be unlimited and boundless. For example, her term on the State Board of Health is noteworthy, because not only is it unusual for a dentist to be on a health board, but for a dentist to chair that board for four years, as she did, is almost unheard of. That, in itself, speaks to her leadership qualities and respect she earns from a wide spectrum of health care providers.

A model for character, compassion and integrity, Dr. Carole Pratt lives the good and right life many strive to achieve.