

**2010 Division of Aging and Adult Services:
Messer, Maddox and Busse Award Winners**

Messer Award: The Messer Award recognizes a community that has excelled in addressing the needs of its older citizens. This award is named for Ernest B. Messer, a champion for aging in the General Assembly and former assistant secretary for aging for the NC Department of Health and Human Services between 1981 and 1985. This year's recipient for the Messer Award is **Jackson County and the Jackson County Department on Aging** located in Sylva. As Mary Barker, the Director of the Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging, stated in her letter of support, Jackson County "has shown tremendous effort in meeting the needs of the elderly in the county." She further noted that "Jackson County completed a long-term plan of action and met almost every aspect of that plan." Most recently, Jackson County opened a modern, spacious building which houses the Department on Aging and its senior center. The center has since been designated as a Center of Excellence by the Division of Aging and Adult Services. A volunteer with the Jackson County Department on Aging stated in his letter of support that he had "never worked with a more competent and caring group of people." The staff of the Jackson County Department on Aging has lived up to its mission of aiming for the highest quality of life for seniors and has truly demonstrated that it is a community that excels in addressing the needs of its older citizens.

Maddox Award: The Maddox Award recognizes an individual or organization that has excelled in creative programming for older adults. The award is named for Dr. George L. Maddox, a noted gerontologist and director of Duke University's Long Term Care Resource Program. The 2010 Maddox Award winner is **Patricia Capehart Brown**, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging and the retired Director for Beaufort County Department of Social Services. Since retiring, Pat serves as a delegate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature; works many hours with the Mid-East Commission's Area Agency on Aging and its Regional Advisory Committee on Aging; and serves on the Advisory Board for the Grace Martin Harwell Senior Center, the Beaufort County Aging Steering Committee for the Department of Social Services, and the Aftercare Committee for her church's Free Dental Clinic. She is a 1998 graduate of the Senior Leadership in Aging, and she served as the Vice-Chair to the 2005 Pre-White House Conference on Aging event in North Carolina. One of the person's nominating her said that she "is the epitome of someone who gives of herself, her time and her money. She is both selfless and tireless and has, in her very quiet and unassuming way, made a tremendous impact on the lives of seniors. Whether her creative programming results in strengthening advocacy, increasing volunteerism, empowering seniors, addressing direct care workforce issues, creating local solutions to address dental aftercare, or the other issues she champions—Pat excels."

Busse Award: The Busse Award was established to recognize an individual or organization that has had a significant impact on enhancing the health status of older North Carolinians through efforts to direct health-related policies and/or to provide leadership in developing innovative solutions to health care problems. The award is named for Dr. Ewald W. Busse, who was president emeritus of the NC Institute of Medicine and a founding director of the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. As a fitting tribute to Dr. Busse, the 2010 Busse Award recipient is **Dr. Harvey Cohen and the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development**. Dr. Cohen has served as the Center's director for the past 25 years. Dr. Gordon DeFries described Dr. Cohen as the "personification of 'medical statesman' when it comes to aging and aging-related science," and noted that few "individuals are held in such high regard by persons from either the science or the policy perspective in the field of aging." The Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development was established in the 1950's as one of the first five regional Centers on Aging, and it is the only original center to have been continuously funded. The Duke Center is known regionally, nationally and internationally for its work, which includes extensive research to understand the effect of aging, the Duke Longitudinal Studies of Normal Aging, the Older American Resources Study of Durham County, the Duke Institute for Learning in Retirement, the Center's Post Doctoral Training Program, its Geriatric Education Center, the Duke Long-Term Care Resources Program, and the Duke Family Support Program.