

## The Hattie Hemschemeyer Award 2020: Ginger K. Breedlove, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN



Ginger K. Breedlove, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, is the 2020 recipient of the Hattie Hemschemeyer Award. Named after the first President of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), this award honors a midwife for continuous outstanding contributions or distinguished service to midwifery and/or maternal and child health (MCH), or contributions of historical significance to the development and advancement of midwifery, ACNM, or MCH. The Hattie Hemschemeyer Award is ACNM's most prestigious honor.

Dr. Breedlove is the founder and principal consultant for Grow Midwives, LLC. The name of the firm is fitting given she has been growing the midwifery profession throughout her career as a leader in clinical practice, education, research, advocacy, and professional organizations. She co-founded the first out-of-hospital birth center in Topeka, Kansas where she began her midwifery career. Next, she established the first nurse-midwifery practice in Greater Kansas City and served as its practice director. These groundbreaking practices modeled interprofessional care, which Dr. Breedlove has continued to champion in all of her work.

Dr. Breedlove went on to establish the first nurse-midwifery education program in Kansas at the University of Kansas School of Nursing and served as the founding program director. She later served as faculty for the Shenandoah University nurse-midwifery program. As an educator, Dr. Breedlove is known for not only teaching student midwives the necessary skills to practice, but also encouraging them to broaden their perspective to incorporate leadership and policy into their careers.

Dr. Breedlove's passion as an educator is evident in her work as an author, editor, and speaker. She is a co-author of *The Community-Based Doula: Supporting Families Before, During, and After Childbirth*, a book that was ahead of its time in recognizing the positive effect of doulas on perinatal care outcomes. She is the editor and a chapter author for *Nobody Told Me about That: The First Six Weeks*, a book she created for new parents. Dr. Breedlove has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters, and she makes frequent conference and grand rounds presentations.

Advocacy for midwifery and MCH has been a constant focus of Dr. Breedlove's career. One of her most prominent accomplishments is co-founding and serving as President of March for Moms. This organization raises awareness about

the alarming rates of maternal mortality and poor perinatal health outcomes in the United States, particularly among people of color. March for Moms holds national annual rally on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Throughout the year, March for Moms advocates for mothers' and families' health, well-being, and equal access to care.

Dr. Breedlove has an extraordinary record of service to ACNM and its members. She was the ACNM President from 2013 to 2016 and served 2 terms as the ACNM Board of Directors Secretary. She was Chair of the Bylaws Committee and a member of the Standards of Practice Committee, Nominating Committee, Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Directors of Midwifery Education, and Division of Education. Currently, she is the Region V Governor for the ACNM Board of Fellows. Dr. Breedlove's service to the midwifery profession and MCH community extends well beyond ACNM. [Correction added on 6 July 2022, after first online publication: Dr. Breedlove's name was corrected in the preceding sentence.] Examples include being a member of the March of Dimes Foundation National Nurse Advisory Council and the Missouri Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board, a founding member of the DONA International Advisory Council, and a founding board member of the Kansas Perinatal Council.

Dr. Breedlove has been recognized with numerous awards and honors. To name a few, she is a recipient of the American Association of Birth Centers Impact Award; the *Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing* Paper of the Year; the ACNM Regional Award for Excellence; multiple teaching awards including the University of Kansas Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award; and the Medical University of South Carolina Outstanding Alumni Award. She is a Fellow of ACNM and the American Academy of Nursing.

Colleagues describe Dr. Breedlove as a dedicated, enthusiastic, tenacious servant-leader who excels at advancing midwifery. Combining her vast experience with a mix of passion and practicality, she engages with stakeholders from every level of the women's health care community. She brings together disparate individuals and helps them find common cause, while facilitating their actions for a more effective result.

Ginger Breedlove has been a trailblazer and leader within and for the midwifery profession. She has been relentless in her work to scale up and sustain midwifery, driven by a deep commitment to improving the health of women and families. Her career has been filled with pioneering achievements in clinical care, education, and advocacy. Being a founder in any one of these areas is noteworthy. Being a founder in all 3 of them in addition to many other accomplishments is truly remarkable. Dr. Breedlove and her work have had an impact on countless colleagues, patients, students, policymakers, and practices. Her outstanding contributions and distinguished service to midwifery and MCH make her a most deserving recipient of the Hattie Hemschemeyer Award.

