

Michael Holtby, MSW, LCSW, BCD – 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award

Michael's cutting edge work with the GLBT community, with people who are HIV positive, and with other underserved populations such as traumatized immigrants and those with sexual addictions has made him a leader in this community for over 30 years. His interest in other cultures and their mental health modalities has led him around the world, most recently to China, where he has worked with the Yunnan Department of Mental Health in Denver's sister city, Kunming, China.

Michael Holtby graduated from the University of Washington School of Social Work in 1972. He earned an ACSW in 1974 and became an LCSW in 1979 – one of the first to be licensed in Colorado. Michael has been in full-time private practice in Denver since 1977.

Michael has worked with gay men since 1969, doing his graduate thesis on the then radical idea that homosexuality was a "variance" rather than a "deviance". For the past 41 years, he has been known as one of the few heterosexual therapists to specialize in work with gay men. His work with HIV clients throughout the epidemic illustrates his leadership and compassion. Michael was selected by Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) for a Community Service Award in 2001. He was also recipient of a Resolution by the Denver City Council for work within the GLBT community in 2001. He was chosen as *Out Front Colorado's* "Reader's Choice" therapist for the years 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003.

Michael has been a Consultant for the Colorado Department of Health for clinicians counseling people with STI's and has conducted a Diversion program with the Denver City Attorney's Office for people arrested for soliciting prostitutes or for public indecency.

Michael is the author of over fifty articles on therapy-related subjects, published in professional journals and popular media. He was a columnist for four years for *Resolute!* Denver's HIV/AIDS newsletter, author of two chapters in *AIDS & Mental Health Practice: Clinical & Policy Issues*, and has been featured twice in the newsletter, *Psychotherapy Finances*.

Michael currently is working with the Yunnan Department of Mental Health in Kunming, China to provide them with American ideas on treatment. He is also a Volunteer for Health Rights International, serving as clinical evaluator of post-traumatic stress claims for immigrants applying for asylum.