



2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

Teresa Pearson
MBA, MS, RN, CDCES, FADCES

ADCES presents one of the highest honors in our profession—the **ADCES Lifetime Achievement Award**—to a leader whose unwavering dedication, innovation, and advocacy have left a lasting impact on diabetes care and education.

Teresa Pearson has spent her career elevating the role of diabetes care and education specialists, shaping policy, building sustainable programs, and inspiring countless professionals along the way. Her journey reflects the power of clinical excellence fused with advocacy and heart.

Teresa started as an inpatient nurse at the Minnesota VA, where her interest in diabetes care first took root. She went on to refine her expertise at the International Diabetes Center and earned her CDE credential in 1991.

From there, her career soared. At HealthPartners, she helped shape diabetes performance measures, population health strategies, and statewide initiatives — all aimed at ensuring people with diabetes receive the right care at the right time from the right provider.

In 2005, when her DSMES program faced cuts, Teresa used data to defend its value—an act

that sparked her lifelong mission to help others “articulate their value.” As a consultant, she’s applied this approach across Indian Health Service sites, FQHCs, ACOs, and major systems.

As one of the first NDPP Master Trainers in 2011, Teresa has since led hundreds of trainings nationwide. A prolific speaker and author with over 70 publications, she also served as editor of *ADCES in Practice* for a decade.

Her impact extends beyond her professional work. Teresa has volunteered in a free clinic and served on numerous boards and advisory committees, including ADCES, ADA, and EASD. Her advocacy helped secure DSMES and NDPP coverage in Minnesota—transformative victories for our field.

She’s received numerous accolades, including the Bruce Zimmerman Award, two President’s Awards from HealthPartners, and the 2019 ADCES Distinguished Service Award.

We celebrate Teresa, a true mentor, leader, and trailblazer.