Mary James receives Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award

Mary L. James, M.A., has been selected as the 2014 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award recipient. The award is presented annually by the Geriatrics Center to recognize outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan.

Ms. James has had a long career supporting appropriate care for older adults, and is an ardent supporter of the rights of elderly people. She started in Michigan's state government, where she rose to the level of Director of the Long Term Care Health Plan Division in the Department of Community Health.

Since coming to the University of Michigan in 2002, Mary has been involved in a multitude of projects and activities that benefit older adults. Her efforts in both the government and university arenas have substantially advanced long-term care in Michigan, in other US states, and worldwide. She is an advocate of using data, rather than just opinion, to drive state policymaking, and has worked very closely with 10 different US states (and been involved with a dozen others), translating research into policy, and helping shape their long-term care systems.

Ms. James has also played a key role in interRAI, an international research consortium that develops and implements assessment systems to support care planning for vulnerable people. Her efforts have helped interRAI to be adopted as the assessment system in 17 different states, and a dozen nations around the world.