

2016 Distinguished Service and Partnership Award

Dr. David and Donna Cavanaugh

ThinkFirst of the Ark-La-Tex, Shreveport, LA

Soon after launching ThinkFirst of the Ark-La-Tex in 1996, David and Donna Cavanaugh began providing essential leadership to the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation. For the past 20 years, this dynamic team has demonstrated unwavering support for the mission and programs of ThinkFirst. David is an accomplished and respected neurosurgeon, injury prevention advocate, educator, researcher and leader. He earned his MD from Louisiana State University and completed his neurosurgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He has served as the Sponsoring Physician for his local chapter since its inception. On the national level, David served as the Foundation's Chairman of the Board from 2005-2007, after serving on the Executive Committee and holding the position of Medical Director.

Donna is a well-known and admired community service leader on the local, state and national level. She earned a BA in Elementary Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Donna is the Director of her state chapter and serves as a national trainer for new chapters. Donna served on the Foundation's Board of Directors for more than 18 years, devoting countless hours of leadership and service. She has a natural gift for bringing people together and building partnerships that has been key to the mission of injury prevention.

Together, David and Donna have built a life filled with service and dedication to others. They are high-performing leaders who have made immeasurable contributions to the field of injury prevention over the course of their careers. We will be forever grateful to them for their distinguished service and partnership.

**Thank you to our 2016 Conference Sponsors and
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30 **ThinkFirst**
YEARS National Injury Prevention Foundation

**2016
ThinkFirst
Awards**

**May 1, 2016
Westin River North
Chicago, Illinois**

Sponsoring Physician of the Year

Per Freitag, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

ThinkFirst SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL

Dr. Freitag was a shining example of what a physician sponsor should be – fearless, passionate and humorous. When the ThinkFirst SIU program was suspended in early 2016 due to a statewide budget impasse, Dr. Freitag went to bat for the program when no one else did. He boldly went to the press to speak up against the situation. He caught trouble from the administration, but he said, “I’m 73 years old – what can they do to me?” Proud of his Norwegian background and personal strength, he was one-of-a-kind. Dr. Freitag passed away in February 2016; his loss has been felt tremendously by all he touched.

Sponsoring Physician of the Year

Jeffrey Lobosky, MD

Co-Medical Director, Neuro-Trauma Surgical ICU, Enloe Medical Center

Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF Department of Neurological Surgery

ThinkFirst Chico, Chico, CA

Dr. Lobosky has been a passionate advocate of injury prevention for more than 30 years, establishing the ThinkFirst Chico chapter in 1988. He founded the local “Heads Up” program where he and his team educated hundreds of children on the importance of bicycle helmets. He took a lead role in development and nationwide launch of the ThinkFirst For Kids curriculum and was a strong advocate for the California motorcycle helmet law. Despite being a busy neurosurgeon, Dr. Lobosky continues to serve as the chapter’s sponsoring physician. He served as Chairman of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation board from 1998-2000.

Chapter of the Year

ThinkFirst Memorial Hospital at Gulfport, Gulfport, MS

For 25 years, ThinkFirst Memorial Hospital at Gulfport has been a champion for injury prevention education. The chapter has educated more than 42,000 students at Central and South Mississippi schools and distributed and fitted 14,000 bicycle helmets. Hospital representatives were actively involved in passage of the 2014 Mississippi Youth Concussion Act and supported 2015 legislation prohibiting drivers from writing, sending or reading text, email or social media messages. During the 2016 ThinkFirst conference, ThinkFirst Memorial Hospital at Gulfport will present research on the barriers that exist with injury prevention follow through behaviors of students and the impact parents play in decision-making.

VIP of the Year

Todd Hammons

ThinkFirst St. Joe’s Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI

After a complete spinal cord injury following a diving incident, Todd Hammons wanted to give back to the hospital that helped him become active and productive in his life and community. He started visiting hospital patients before being introduced to ThinkFirst. For the past 20 years, Todd has been a dedicated ThinkFirst VIP for two Michigan chapters, sharing his powerful first-person testimonial to encourage thousands of students to make safe choices. Todd leverages his relationships in the spinal cord community to promote the ThinkFirst program and recruit additional VIPs. Todd is an influential and respected injury prevention speaker, crediting the ThinkFirst program with making him feel rewarded and valued.

Outstanding Community Involvement Award

Summit Medical Center & Mountain Clinics ThinkFirst

St. Anthony’s Medical Center, Frisco, CO

As part of National Skier Safety Weekend, the Summit Medical Center & Mountain Clinics ThinkFirst chapter hits the slopes to promote safe skiing. Over the past several years, this chapter has visited ski resorts throughout Summit County to educate skiers and snowboarders about helmet use and trauma prevention. Each winter, volunteers fit and distribute helmets at cost and deliver presentations about the prevention of brain injury. Their two-day safety event in partnership with Ski Patrol, Mountain Safety and area ski resorts reaches thousands of visitors each year. This event is becoming the standard in Colorado for Skier Safety Weekend and has been duplicated by chapters across the state.

Outstanding Research Award

TriHealth ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Program

TriHealth/Bethesda North Hospital, Cincinnati, OH

TriHealth ThinkFirst conducted a fall prevention study in Green Township, OH from October 2014-September 2015. The purpose of the study was to analyze the effects of a multifaceted fall prevention program, Stepping On, when paired with a home visit with home modification installation. This randomized study utilized intervention and control groups. Results indicated that 40.5% of people in the intervention group experienced a reduced number of falls after the program. In addition, the Stepping On intervention was found to improve balance and problem solving in relation to fall hazards, as well as documented changes in reduced home hazards in individual homes.