

Robert Bernstein, M.D., Special Recognition Award



Dr. Robert Bernstein was a former commissioner of the Texas Department of Health and Chairman of the Board/executive committee member of the Texas Health Foundation (now the Texas Health Institute). He dedicated his life to public service through public health work. Dr. Bernstein was a champion in giving back to his country, state and community in both his professional and personal life.

One of Dr. Bernstein's favorite projects was the *Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health* program of which he was a founding creator, a solid and consistent supporter and involved personally in its perpetuation since its inception 24 years ago. Until his death in 2007, he was present for every annual Awards for Excellence ceremony to present the awards and personally congratulate each of the winners.

The School Health Program is honored to sponsor the *Robert Bernstein, M.D., Special Recognition Award* in his memory. To win this award, a school or district must win the *Reaching for Excellence and Discovery awards* consecutively with an implementation year in between, and then win the *Vanguard* award within two years – all with the same program. This progressive, four-step process is a way to build, support, and maintain a new or emerging program as it grows each year to its full potential.

STEP ONE (year one): Reaching for Excellence winners are automatically entered into the *Robert Bernstein Award* program.



STEP TWO (year two): A Reaching for Excellence winner takes the second year to implement their new program and document results.



STEP THREE (year three): A Reaching for Excellence winning program wins a Discovery Award



STEP FOUR (year four or five): A Discovery Award winning program wins the Vanguard Award and is presented with the Robert Bernstein Special Recognition Award

Schools or districts that complete the *Robert Bernstein Award* program will receive recognition at the annual Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health Banquet and Awards Ceremony, be given a *Robert Bernstein, M.D.*,

Special Recognition Award plaque, and their school's name will be permanently displayed in the lobby of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Bernstein Building.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Awards for Excellence is sponsored by the School Health Program of the DSHS and funded by the Texas Health Institute with additional support from the Texas Pediatric Society Foundation. For more information on the awards program, visit the Awards for Excellence in Texas School Health website at

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/awards.shtm>.

