

**Award Category:** IPM Practitioner

**Nominator Name:** Carrie R. Foss

**Nominator Company/Affiliation:** Washington State University

**Nominator Title:** Urban IPM Director

**Nominator Phone:** 253-445-4577

**Nominator Email:** cfoss@wsu.edu

**Nominee Name of Individual:** Dawn H. Gouge

**Nominee Affiliation (if applicable):** University of Arizona, Department of Entomology

**Nominee Title (if applicable):** Associate Professor and Associate Specialist-Urban Entomologist

**Nominee Phone:** 520-374-6223

**Nominee Email:** dhgouge@email.arizona.edu

Is this submission for a local or regional area must choose one?

Local (Company, School, Non-Profit)

Regional (Scout, Crop Advisor, Company in more than one location, Non-Profit that covers multiple areas)

**Type of Nomination:** Regional

**Briefly describe IPM practitioner's background or practice (500 words)**

Dr. Gouge has been a leader in protecting our nation's children from risks associated with pests and pesticides for nearly two decades. In the early 2000's, Dr. Gouge was actively involved in the development of the IPM STAR certification program, a recognition program offered by the IPM Institute for school districts with excellent IPM programs determined by an on-site evaluation. Dr. Gouge recruited three Arizona school districts to participate in the pilot phase and was on the expert team of evaluators. Being an exceptional IPM practitioner, Dawn continued working with the school districts after the project, supporting district-wide IPM implementation, and presenting the IPM STAR award at school board meetings to increase awareness about the importance of IPM to board members and administration. Dr. Gouge continues to work tirelessly on school IPM implementation locally, regionally, and nationally.

In 2006, Dr. Gouge initiated development of the national pest management strategic plan, *School IPM 2015*, leading a successful grant proposal to USDA NIFA, developing an initial planning group, and with this group, co-leading an expanded working group to develop the plan. Dawn was instrumental in the 2008 initial plan release, as well as the 2015 revision. She has been a leader for *School IPM 2020*, a long-term collaborative initiative working to reduce pest problems and pesticide hazards in U.S. schools. Dr. Gouge was also the inspiration and leader for *Stop School Pests*, a free IPM in schools training course designed for all school employees who are part of improving environmental health for students. *Stop School Pests* is one of *School IPM 2020's* signature projects. The project is part of a national, multi-agency collaboration with a common goal of reducing risks associated with pests and pest management practices in schools. The team chose to focus on one of the most important components of IPM implementation – IPM education.

Dr. Gouge has taught IPM principles to public housing administrators, property managers, residents and maintenance staff in collaboration with the Northeast IPM Center's *Stop Pests in Housing* program. Dawn has conducted these trainings in multiple states, including Arizona. She also works with tribal communities and public housing for the elderly and disabled to initiate IPM programs at these sites. The Center for Disease Control taps into Dr. Gouge's expertise to train at IPM workshops for environmental health professionals.

In addition to all of Dr. Gouge's IPM implementation efforts 'on the ground', she is sought after by high-level decision makers regarding community IPM policy guidance. Dawn was appointed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee. Dawn currently serves on the 9<sup>th</sup> International IPM Symposium Steering Committee following years of volunteer service for previous symposia dating back to 2006.

Dr. Dawn Gouge has been recognized by the US EPA and others for her passionate commitment to implementing and promoting Integrated Pest Management to provide long-term management of pests with minimum impact on human health and the environment.

• **Describe this individual's contribution to IPM in their local or regional area. (300 words)**

While Dr. Gouge is active working with agency administrators on policy for IPM implementation, most of her exceptional efforts are focused on providing training and technical support to schools, pest management professionals, and property managers and residents in Arizona and the Western Region. Arizona is a state where school IPM is voluntary, yet Dr. Gouge has worked directly with more than 50 Arizona public school districts on establishment of IPM programs as well as many other school districts in the Western Region. Since 2002, she has helped school districts in her state and region achieve IPM STAR recognition in collaboration with the IPM Institute. Dawn has conducted community IPM workshops each year in Arizona and the West for public housing and tribal communities, including two in 2017 with over 100 attendees and sixteen tribes represented. Dawn has been co-director of the 'IPM for Sensitive Sites in the Built Environment' Western Region Work Group since its inception in 2007, a decade ago. During this time, there has been significant turn-over in the region's urban IPM practitioners, yet Dawn has mentored each of these new Work Group members. She has invited them to be co-Project Investigators on IPM implementation projects, co-presenters at IPM workshops and symposia, and partners in the development of training materials. Through these collaborations, Dawn has trained the trainers. And even more importantly, she has inspired them with her passion and her ability to motivate people to use IPM in places where people work and live. As a result, Dr. Gouge has multiplied her IPM implementation efforts through synergy by developing a regional team of urban IPM practitioners.

• **What type of outreach/educational programming has this individual implemented/developed. (300 words)**

Dr. Gouge has developed and used every possible outreach approach that works to get people to implement IPM. Her 43-page curriculum vitae is a testament to her unceasing efforts to share her IPM expertise with school staff, pest management professionals, tribes, multi-family housing residents and administrators, pest management professionals, government decision-makers, and the general public. Dawn conducts in-person workshops at schools where she explains pest biology and public health issues related to pests, but also practical and successful IPM methods to prevent pests and reduce pesticide use. Dawn teaches by showing, using the school setting to point out conducive conditions that lead to pest infestations or pesticide exposure. She follows up with schools providing one-on-one technical assistance and has an ongoing relationship with schools that she has helped implement IPM programs. Meanwhile, Dawn is creating and distributing school IPM newsletters (an average of 11 each year), extension bulletins, journal articles, blogs, media interviews, and online resources. Dr. Gouge was project leader for the *Stop School Pests* national school IPM outreach project that resulted in online and in-class presentations and certifications for all school community stakeholder groups including school administrators, facility managers, pest management professionals, school IPM coordinators, custodians, grounds maintenance staff, nurses, food service staff, and teachers. Dawn is often a speaker at national industry and professional association conferences on the 'importance of' and 'how to' of managing pests using IPM. In her position at the University of Arizona, she is training the next generation through IPM lectures for graduate and undergraduate students.

• **Provide an example of successful outcomes resulting from the nominee's IPM practice in regards to:**

**a) What economic advantages that were enabled for clients and stakeholders?**

Dr. Dawn Gouge reported that Kyrene Schools in Arizona decreased pesticide application costs in three schools. On average only one pesticide application per school was needed per year, compared to 12 or more applications prior to IPM implementation, resulting in a cost savings.

**b) What positive environmental outcomes has the nominee enabled for clients and stakeholders?** Dr. Gouge has reported decreased pesticide use in the schools with IPM programs. Using IPM and reducing pesticide use minimizes adverse effects on soil, water, air, and non-target organisms.

**c) What human health/veterinary advantages has the nominee enabled for clients, and stakeholders?** In 2015, the University of Arizona's school IPM team led by Dr. Gouge determined that Arizona schools using IPM reported a 78% average decrease in pest occurrence and 71% decrease in pesticide use.

**Article that represents the work of the nominee:**

<https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/docs/2017MayAZschoolandhomeIPMNewsletter.pdf>