

SMART



20th Anniversary

celebration

SPECIAL AWARDS

ACTION AWARD:

Catherine Hanssens, Executive Director and Founder of the Center for HIV Law and Policy, has been engaged in HIV legal issues since 1984. Hanssens previously was AIDS Project Director at Lambda Legal for nearly a decade, where she led Lambda's HIV-related litigation and policy work. She has worked with the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, where she created and managed medical-legal partnerships at several hospitals and clinics serving women living with HIV and their families. At the New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate, Hanssens successfully brought successful cases to stop involuntary HIV testing, won a class action challenge to segregation and mistreatment of New Jersey prisoners living with HIV, and won for incarcerated women the right to funded elective abortions. She was a visiting clinical professor at Rutgers University Law School-Newark and Director of the their Women and AIDS Clinic. Prior to that, she organized small family farmers in NJ and PA to sell directly to consumers through regular farmers markets hosted on church parking lots throughout Philadelphia.

EDUCATION AWARD:

Sharene Roig, MA, Ed.M., a Latina born and raised in the heart of the South Bronx has spent the past 21 years as an anti-violence advocate and educator, specializing in Intimate Partner Violence and addressing its root causes. She has worked in direct service, grass roots organizing, community training and empowerment. Currently, Sharene is the Coordinator of Women & Girls Programs at CONNECT- a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing interpersonal violence and promoting gender justice.

Sharene is also a lead trainer for their CONNECT Training Institute (CTI) facilitating the Understanding Domestic Violence Essentials and Intersections course and their Women's Empowerment course. Throughout her years in the field of Intimate Partner Violence prevention, she has worked with families that experience violence in child welfare, worked with abusive partners, conducted support groups for victims/survivors (in English/Spanish), and provided Girls Empowerment workshops to adolescent girls in high school. Her community workshops throughout NYC include working with organizations including Smart University on providing Intimate Partner Abuse education and resource building.

PARTNER AWARD:

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, widely recognized as one of New York's premier nonprofit organizations, is a 124-year-old settlement house that provides an extensive array of effective and integrated human services—social, educational, legal, health, housing, mental health, nutritional and fitness—which significantly improve the lives of thousands of people in need each year, ages 3 to 103, on the East Side of Manhattan. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in the spring session of our SMART University program, where they presented an engaging and highly informative eight week series on a wide range of mental health topics.

FOUNDER'S AWARD:

Lorna Gottesman, Mary A., and Alicia R.