

AWARDS 1991

This year the Association for Experiential Education recognizes two members for their contributions to the field of experiential education. Members nominate deserving people and the Board chooses the recipients.

MICHAEL STRATTON PRACTITIONER'S AWARD SANFORD TOLLETTE

In 1986, AEE established a "Practitioner of the Year Award" to recognize educators working "in the trenches" with people in a truly hands-on-way, who serve as role models to those who know about their work and efforts. In 1989, AEE changed the name of the award to the "Michael Stratton Practitioner's Award: in honor of Michael Stratton, a man who touched many people through his unique spirit.

In the past, this award has been given to the following members;

1986	Michael Stratton
1987	Keith Long
1988	Ava Heinrichsdorff
1989	Reno Taini
1990	Karl Rohnke

This year's recipient is Sanford Tollette. Sanford is a believer, a doer, a practitioner with integrity, compassion, commitment, and a dedication to service. For more than 16 years he has been involved in the field of experiential education. Currently, he is Executive Director of the Joseph Pfeifer Kiwanis Camp in Little Rock, Arkansas where he directs a residential outdoor education program for youth-at-risk, aged nine to fifteen.

Sanford attended the University of Arkansas where he received a B. S. in Elementary Education. He taught for 5 years in the Pulaski County and Little Rock School districts. In the early 1980's Sanford started an 18 month program for at-risk youth on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. For the past ten years he has been building the self-confidence of high-risk youth and teaching them critical problem-solving skills through his program while continually refining his methods as he learned what worked best.

Three years ago Sanford initiated a broader alternative school program that included parents as an integral component. In 1990 an evaluation study on the program concluded that 66% of participating students demonstrated significant successes when returned to the regular school environment. In the same year KARK of Little Rock produced a film documentary on the Pfeifer Camp that won numerous prestigious awards and was nominated for an Emmy. Pfeifer Camp, under Sanford's direction, also received the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award presented by Senator Ted. Kennedy.

