The Chapter Centennial Legacy Award celebrates ACP’s centennial by recognizing one seminal chapter member whose service to the chapter had a significant impact on the chapter’s viability. This individual should exemplify ACP’s core values including leadership, excellence, respect, compassion, professionalism and responsibility.

The South Dakota Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Donald W. Humphreys, MD MACP, with the Chapter Centennial Legacy Award.

In the four decades after moving to South Dakota, following residency and fellowship at Indiana University, Dr. Humphreys made an indelible mark on the South Dakota ACP chapter. Within the chapter he served in numerous roles including Governor from 1987 to 1992. His commitment to the profession and the ACP was recognized with the chapter’s Laureate award in 1999.

Many knew him for his tireless pursuit of excellence, most notably in teaching and scholarly activities. Dr. Humphreys received teaching awards from his department, the medical school, and the residency program. His devotion to scholarly activity continued as an Emeritus professor. He taught regularly at the medical school and sponsored an annual poster competition for Internal Medicine residents. Colleagues and students hold Dr. Humphreys in highest regard for his kindness and compassion. This lifelong devotion to medicine was acknowledged with the state medical association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2014.
2015 Laureate - Ashok V. Kumar, MBBS FACP - received his medical degree from Madras University in India. After four years as a medical officer in Kingston, Jamaica, he moved to New York, where he completed an Internal Medicine residency and a pulmonary fellowship. In 1990 he joined the staff at the VA Hospital in Hot Springs, SD. There he served as ICU and pulmonary department director and chief of the medical service. He remained in the VA system until 2013, when he transitioned to a hospitalist role with Rapid City Regional Hospital. His list of awards, both military and civilian, is long and distinguished including the Antoine Hayden award for teaching excellence, several Golden Apple teaching awards, and teacher of the year for the family medicine program. Since 2001 he has served in the South Dakota National Guard, including four overseas deployments. His volunteer efforts were recognized with the SD ACP Volunteerism Award in 2011. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Kumar has held many roles in the SD ACP. He is the current chapter Vice-Governor and recently completed a term as treasurer. He has been a gracious host and member of the planning committee for multiple state meetings in the Black Hills. Dr. Kumar resides in Rapid City with his wife, Kaushalya. They have two children – Anita Chang who is a third year psychiatry resident in Detroit and Ashok Kumar who will soon be an assistant professor at Arizona State University.

2015 Teacher of the Year - Jerel W. Tieszen, MD FACP - was born and raised in Marion, SD and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Augustana College. He attended the University of South Dakota School of Medicine for two years and received his medical degree at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, MA. After completing his Internal Medicine Residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, he joined Central Plains Clinic in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1981. Over the past 34 years, Dr. Tieszen has had an active clinical practice and has been very committed to academic medicine as well. He is a Clinical Professor at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM). Countless third and fourth year medical students have had their medicine rotations with Dr. Tieszen. He has been both a teacher and a mentor to them. In recognition of his teaching, he was the recipient of the Golden Apple Award in 2011. Dr. Tieszen also has been very involved in teaching with the residency programs at SSOM, including the Internal Medicine, Family Medicine and Psychiatry programs. Dr. Tieszen is a Fellow of the College and sits on the chapter’s Awards and Nominations committee. Over the years, he has been appointed to numerous clinic, hospital, and leadership boards. He has also been committed to his church, serving on various executive positions including being elected to be the congregational president during a multimillion dollar capital campaign and building project. He is married to Nancy, his wife of 43 years. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

2015 Early Career Physician of the Year - Nate Miller, MD - was raised in Parker, SD and received his medical degree from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM). Following medical school, he completed his Internal Medicine residency at SSOM and served an additional year as chief resident of the program. During his chief year, he began his career as a hospitalist at Avera McKennan and continues there today. Dr. Miller has been an Assistant Professor at SSOM since 2012. He is currently a core faculty member for the Internal Medicine Residency program and serves as co-division chief of the hospitalist division. He was actively involved in the development of McKennan’s observation unit and recently assumed a position at the medical school where he will oversee the curriculum for the last 15 months of medical student training. Over the past few years with the SD ACP, Dr. Miller has served a number of roles. He has both presented and served as a moderator at the SD state ACP meeting. Previous involvement within the chapter includes sitting on the early career physicians council and representing the ACP at the state AMA meetings. He currently functions as the chapter’s treasurer. Dr. Miller and his wife Tiffany have 3 boys, Noah (5), Luke (3), and Graham (2 months). They enjoy camping, playing baseball and spending time outdoors.