



November 15, 2017

Contact: Brandi Jewett
Writing Specialist
bjewett@lyngblomsten.org
(651) 632-5377
1415 Almond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Lyngblomsten honors Dr. Leslie Grant with Anna Quale Fergstad Award for Distinguished Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (November 15, 2017) — Lyngblomsten, a nonprofit senior care organization serving older adults in the Twin Cities since 1906, has honored one of its longtime supporters with an award recognizing his distinguished service.

Dr. Leslie (Les) Grant, an associate professor at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities School of Public Health received the Anna Quale Fergstad Award for Distinguished Service for more than two decades of involvement with Lyngblomsten. He has made a significant impact at the organization through roles as a board member, educator, researcher and volunteer.

The award is given to individuals to recognize their incredible support of Lyngblomsten. It is named after the organization's lead founder, Anna Quale Fergstad, who led a literary club that eventually established Lyngblomsten. Grant received the award Nov. 12 at Lyngblomsten's annual Supporters Appreciation Event.

"The way I look at it, the award is given to individuals who have made great contributions to Lyngblomsten," Lyngblomsten President and CEO Jeff Heinecke said. "Les fits that bill in every aspect."

Grant's dedication to innovation in his roles with Lyngblomsten and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus has improved the lives of countless older adults. At the university, Grant is an associate professor and director of the Center for Aging Services Management. In his role as director, Grant also heads the center's long-term care manager licensure program.

At Lyngblomsten, Grant has served nine years as a member of the organization's board of directors. In this role, he has been tapped to participate in several task forces, committees, and projects within the organization. In recent years, Grant has used his insight and grant-writing expertise to help progress several Lyngblomsten efforts, including development of eMenuCHOICE® software and 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten enrichment centers.

Grant has been a member of the Lyngblomsten community since the early 1990s when he helped facilitate an employee exchange program between the organization and senior living communities in Sweden. As part of the program, Lyngblomsten adopted aspects of Swedish care that developed into the person-centered care approach the organization uses today.

As part of that care model adoption, Grant wrote and received a grant to conduct a research evaluation of its impact on Lyngblomsten residents. Former Lyngblomsten President and CEO Paul Mikelson said Grant's evaluation and the results were very helpful to the organization.

"It had a substantial impact by having somebody from the academic community who looked at what we were doing and validated the fact that we were moving in a positive direction," Mikelson said.

Grant holds a bachelor's degree in architecture and master's degrees in architecture and medical and health science from the University of California-Berkeley. He earned a doctorate in human development and aging from the University of California-San Francisco. Grant's research specialties include environmental design for seniors; financing, organization, and delivery of long-term care; and environment assessment and program evaluation.

"Les has always been interested in the welfare of older adults—especially nursing home residents—and trying to find ways to improve the lives of nursing home residents," Mikelson said. "He approaches it from an academic standpoint, studying various aspects of nursing home life, trying to help people move forward and provide better environments for seniors."

Grant joins the ranks of other Anna Quale Fergstad Award winners listed below.

- 2001: Wallace R. Hauge
- 2002: Rev. Elder Bentley
- 2003: Marvin Merrick
- 2004: June Husom & Rachel Husom
- 2005: Jack Boss
- 2006: Bill Lund
- 2007: Jeanette Severson
- 2008: Mary Blanchard
- 2009: Mary Dennis
- 2013: Paul Mikelson
- 2015: Michael A. Santoro
- 2017: Dr. Leslie Grant

###

Incorporated in 1906, Lyngblomsten is a Christian nonprofit organization enhancing the quality of life for older adults of all faiths and cultures through its healthcare and housing facilities and its community-based outreach programs for seniors living independently. Connect with Lyngblomsten at www.lyngblomsten.org or through its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.