

Lifetime Achievement Award to Teresa Robles

Written by Roxanna Erickson Klein

At the December 2011 Erickson Congress, the Milton H. Erickson Foundation held a brief ceremony to recognize work of Teresa Robles Ph.D. During its 32-year history the Milton H. Erickson Foundation has granted 12 Lifetime Achievement Awards in recognition of significant contributions to further the work begun by Milton H. Erickson. Robles's professional accomplishments include active positions in numerous international organizations as well as key roles in teaching and providing clinical services. She has authored more than 30 professional publications and is conversant in five languages. One of her greatest contributions to the field of Ericksonian methodology has been to develop hypnotic/psychotherapeutic language *specific* to the Neo-Latin/Romance languages. Word-play and nuances, so characteristic of Ericksonian hypnotic language, introduces sophisticated multi-level suggestion through careful employment of homonyms and other language qualities that are so often lost or misused in translation.

Dr. Robles is a dedicated individual who has worked diligently in the field for more than two decades. A founder of the Instituto Milton H. Erickson de la Ciudad de Mexico in 1989, in 2004 she founded Centro Ericksoniano de Mexico. Her passion for giving to the community is complemented by an exceptional skill in developing creative initiatives. Robles is proficient in laying supportive groundwork that has the potential to expand into various forms of education and services. Talented in mentoring those around her, her modeling of ambitious dedication leaves a wake of promise for ongoing professional growth and expansion. During the last decade there has been a proliferation of interest in Mexico that has rippled throughout Latin America. Robles is the first Latin American to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Scholarship Award

An Elizabeth Erickson Scholarship Award was made at the 2011 Congress. While the Scholarship derives its funding from several donated sources, this distribution reflected proceeds associated with a biographical sketch of Elizabeth Erickson written by Marilia Baker. This sketch illustrates the dynamic influence of the couple as integral to the contributions of Milton Erickson. Written in English, Baker's: *A Tribute to Elizabeth Moore Erickson. Colleague Extraordinaire, Wife, Mother, and Companion* was first published in Spanish in 2003 by Alom Editores, Mexico DF. That book is now printed in four languages. At the time of publication, Baker consulted with Elizabeth Erickson and a decision was made that profits from the work foster education to underserved indigenous areas in Mexico. Royalties from these works are combined with those of a translation of a book of Ericksonian Strategies by Dan Short, and are further supplemented with funds from the Centro Ericksoniano in Mexico.

The first scholarship was given in December, 2004 with Mrs. Erickson in attendance. The recipient, Diana Ruiz, used the funds to further her education as an Ericksonian psychotherapist. Now licensed, Diana practices in her native Patzcuaro, Michoacan and in surrounding indigenous and low-income communities. The current distribution also will be earmarked for ongoing work using Ericksonian approaches with indigenous communities. The Centro Ericksoniano is now collaborating with the Institute of Chihuahua on a school in Hermosillo, Sonora to establish a program that will facilitate adaptation of indigenous areas while preserving the integrity of their cultural uniqueness. The utilization of traditional beliefs, rites, ceremonies, and the preservation of native languages are integral to the work.

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Teresa Robles receives the Lifetime Achievement award from Erickson Foundation Director Jeffrey Zeig.