

**University of Northern Colorado Audiology and Speech Language Sciences  
Professor Receives Award from the Illinois Academy of Audiology**



Dr. Deanna Meinke, a University of Northern Colorado Associate Professor in the School of Human Sciences, College of Natural and Health Sciences recently received the Natalie Stukas Hearing Conservation Award from the Illinois Academy of Audiology. This award acknowledges outstanding achievement in clinical practice, consumer education, product development, or research in the area of hearing conservation. The award was established in 2004 in the memory of Natalie Stukas, a founding member of the Illinois Academy of Audiology, who dedicated her professional life to the identification and prevention of hearing loss in the work place.

Dr. Meinke is internationally known for her passion for hearing loss prevention. Her research interests include distortion product otoacoustic emissions and the early detection and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss across the lifespan. Her research also focuses on health communication theory applied to training, motivation, and intervention. Her clinical interests include the delivery of occupational hearing conservation services, hearing protector fit assessment, and workers' compensation investigations.

She is a past president of the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) and the Colorado Academy of Audiology. Presently, she chairs the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) "Safe-in-Sound Expert Committee" and is the 2010 recipient of the NCHA's Threadgill Award. Her passion for hearing loss prevention targeting children is highlighted by her collaborations with colleagues from the Oregon Health & Science University in the delivery of Dangerous Decibels<sup>®</sup> educator training workshops in the U.S. and Canada and chairing the NHCA Task Force on Children and Noise.