**New Mexico**

**Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award**

The next award is the Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award, which recognizes a pharmacist who has demonstrated excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention. The award is intended to recognize outstanding efforts within the pharmacy community to raise awareness of this serious public health problem. It is also intended to encourage educational prevention efforts aimed at patients, youth, and other members of the community. We are grateful to Cardinal Health for their support of this important cause and are pleased that Dennis Otsuka, Retail Independent Pharmacy Director Sales, is with us today to present this year’s award - *then turn the podium over to Dennis*

**Thank you. I’m very pleased to present the *2017 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award*. The abuse and misuse of prescription medications continues to be a significant public health crisis across the country, here in our state and in our local communities. One in four teens, or about 5 million teens across America, reports having misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime. At Cardinal Health, we passionately believe that pharmacists can play a powerful role in reversing these startling trends. Never has there been a more important time for pharmacists and health care providers to reach out to their communities and send a clear message that prescription drugs, when taken without a prescription, can have deadly consequences.**

**There are many pharmacists here in our state working every day to fight prescription drug abuse. Thank you so much for your continued efforts. I’m proud to honor one of those champions today.**

**Congratulations to this year’s Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions Award recipient, Adela Padilla.**

**Adela was licensed to practice pharmacy in 1990. She has always been an advocate for the patient as she practiced as a community pharmacist, an independent pharmacy owner, a mail order pharmacist and most recently as a senior inspector at the NM Board of Pharmacy.**

**Adela started her career with the NM BOP in 2006. As a pharmacy board inspector, she has always taken an approach to help pharmacists identify and understand the rules and requirements while assisting them to achieve compliance with the regulations. She is very dedicated and passionate about her mission. She is a great teacher and has served as a college of pharmacy preceptor for the BOP rotation for many years.**

**Adela provides great input to the board as they evaluate new statutes and write regulations, especially in the areas of drug misuse, diversion and implementation of the Prescription Monitoring Program. She has really played a significant role in preventing drug diversion and dealing with the opiate crisis.**

**Adela, thank you for your commitment to this work.**