

Harold N. Godwin



Be Active and Shape Your Future and Those Following in Your Path

Harold is so passionate about pharmacy that in addition to his almost 50 years in practice, teaching, and academic leadership, he has continually given his personal time to professional organizations as well as residency training and teaching pharmacy students. What is remarkable about Harold is that he has always been able to step back and view issues from the perspective of the whole profession not just as a hospital/health-system pharmacist. He has rarely missed a national or state professional meeting, continues to be an instrumental part of whatever change is occurring (preferring not to be a victim), and continues to seize opportunities. His professional commitment is evidenced by his serving as president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the American Council of Pharmacy Education (now known as the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education [ACPE]), and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). In his 1991 Harvey AK Whitney Award Lecture, he outlined the converging paths leading to the development of pharmaceutical care, which moves pharmacists into direct patient care.

Harold received his bachelor of science in pharmacy degree at the University of Kansas and his master of science degree from The Ohio State University. He completed a residency at The Ohio State University Hospitals. He is currently Professor and Associate Dean of Pharmacy for Clinical and Medical Center Affairs at the University of Kansas, School of Pharmacy.

Harold ends his letter with excellent advice: *a successful career is not a destination, but it is the journey to success that is so very rewarding.*



Dear Young Pharmacist,

It gives me pleasure to write to you and provide some advice about achieving success in our great profession. Although I have had many outstanding mentors, I wish that someone would have provided me with cogent advice early in my career to focus my attention on becoming a more effective leader. You have a wonderful and exciting career ahead of you. Pharmacists today are in a dynamic profession that is poised for greatness. In your career you may assume roles not yet even imagined. Looking back on my career, here are some development and leadership tips that I wished I had known.

First, always be curious about both your profession and your colleagues. Soon you will find yourself in an interprofessional environment practicing in teams or organizations and not as an individual. The profession's success will be measured not only by our clinical and leadership abilities but by our interactions and relationships with the comprehensive team of different disciplines. You will be working side by side with other health care providers, managers, faculty, business professionals, patients, and the public at large. The better you understand your colleagues' career directions/goals and their aspirations, the more successful you will be in your career. Understand what makes your colleagues tick and understand your "big picture" environment. Health care reform is here, and changes in our profession will accelerate like never before. You should be an instrumental part of this transformation and not a victim of this change.

Second, capitalize on your strengths. As you continue to develop and grow in your career, you will realize that you have certain strengths as well as some weaknesses or areas that need improvement. Certainly, you should strive to improve those weak areas, but actually you should play to your own strengths. Demonstrate what you are good at and how you excel around others. An enlightening book is *Strengths Finder 2.0* by Tom Rath (Gallup Press). I encourage you to read it. This leadership text helps you identify your strengths and assists you in capitalizing on the value you have. It is also an excellent book for group study in your work environment. We need all strengths to be represented on any successful cohesive team.