

Billy W. Woodward



Nurture an Enduring Passion for Patients and the Profession

During any discussion with Billy about his profession, you will almost certainly hear him say that it is about the people we serve and our genuine love, respect, and concern for them; that you must have a “fire in the belly” to fulfill your professional dreams; and that an enduring passion for the patients and the profession will sustain you in your career. His passion for his work and his profession is about a vision far greater than himself: It is about purpose and a better and safer care of patients.

He is currently President of Renaissance Innovative Pharmacy Services, Ltd., in Temple, Texas, and is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Texas. For 25 years he was Corporate Director of Pharmacy for the Scott & White Health System in Temple, Texas, and also served as Director of Pharmacy and Central Services at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock, Texas.

Billy actively supports the pharmacy profession through his work in professional organizations. He has served in leadership positions in the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the ASHP Foundation, and the International Pharmaceutical Federation. He has received numerous awards including the ASHP Distinguished Leadership Award and the Harvey AK Whitney Lecture Award—ASHP’s highest award for health-system pharmacy. Billy received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Billy provides a great insight: *Passion and purpose will provide direction for you during those difficult and challenging times in your career.*



Dear Young Pharmacist,

As you are entering the profession to pursue your personal practice and leadership experience, it is my sincere wish that you achieve your greatest ambitions and dreams for your patients and our profession of pharmacy. I want to share what I learned over four decades as the most critical attribute to ensure such a result. This conclusion became clear to me a few years ago at an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) reception for pharmacy residents when a resident asked the question, “What single factor or trait in your long leadership career do you consider most responsible for your professional success?” This was a surprisingly simple, but penetrating, question that first took me aback. But after a momentary reflection, my answer came quickly, “An enduring passion for the patient and the profession!” For me, this translates to the nurturing of a sincere and passionate belief that a competent, caring, and committed pharmacy team can always make a better and safer tomorrow for our patients!

Through many inevitable ups and downs that passionate vision for our pharmacy team and our patients has never failed to sustain me through difficult and challenging times. Let me share three personal stories in my professional life that validated this conclusion.

In 1965 in Boston, I attended an ASHP General Practice Institute with the objective of learning all I could about this new and growing pharmacy movement in the United States called hospital pharmacy practice. At the time, I was a newly hired director of pharmacy in a 300-bed hospital in Lubbock, Texas, with no experience beyond two years of disillusioning retail store management. I was sampling this new and different practice with one eye while the other was looking to save enough money to attend medical school as soon as possible. At that weeklong meeting I met and interacted with local and renowned national leaders and hospital pharmacy practitioners such as innovator John Webb who gave us a tour at Massachusetts General Hospital and Joe Oddis, a dynamic young Executive Vice President at ASHP. I was immediately blown away by their enthusiasm and passion for the patient and the profession.