



ABBIE HUDGENS, MPA, ARM, AIC, EARNS 2012 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Each month, *Public Risk* features a member who has gone above and beyond in a feature column titled "Member Spotlight." Do you know someone who deserves recognition, has made a contribution or excelled in their profession?

If so, we'd like to hear from you for this exciting column, as PRIMA shines the spotlight on its members.

To be considered for the Member Spotlight column, contact Jennifer Ackerman at jackerman@primacentral.org or 703.253.1267.

The Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) is proud to honor Abbie Hudgens, MPA, ARM, AIC, with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award. The PRIMA Distinguished Service Award honors an individual working within the field of public risk management who has made a significant contribution to the profession and given sustained service to PRIMA as an organization.

Hudgens, who is the worker's compensation division administrator for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, was chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award based on her many years of dedicated service to both PRIMA and the profession of risk management. Hudgens is a former PRIMA board member and president (1995–96), as well as having served as president of the Association's Tennessee chapter. During her career, Hudgens has been a pioneer in the public risk management field.

Beginning as an intern in the City of Knoxville's Finance Department while a student at the University of Tennessee, Hudgens built the risk and benefits management program from scratch, as many other risk managers had to do at that time. It was during this time that she helped found the Tennessee chapter of PRIMA in 1986. From the beginning, she prized the value of PRIMA to public sector risk managers.

When Metro Nashville and Davidson County's insurance manager retired, he specifically requested that Hudgens be brought in as the city's risk manager. After developing new risk management programs there, Hudgens formed her own risk consulting firm before the State of Tennessee came calling. She was asked to succeed the state's long-time workers' compensation division administrator in 2011.

"With her usual style, Abbie has thrust herself into this new role and her usual success is sure to follow," said

Michael Fann, ARM-P, MBA, Tennessee chapter president. "Even with this new assignment, Abbie remains an active contributor to our state chapter."

Hudgens' contributions to public risk management extend far beyond the state of Tennessee. According to Fann, Hudgens' presentations at early PRIMA conferences about the programs she developed for the City of Knoxville became the framework for many public entity programs throughout the 1980s. This was especially true of employee benefits, wellness programs, employee assistance programs and workers' compensation management, said Fann.

Hudgens was a pioneer in the development of the educational offerings at many of the early PRIMA conferences, and critical in the development of the PRIMA Government Risk Management Seminar (GRMS, the predecessor of today's PRIMA Institute).

"Perhaps most significantly, she was a contributor and developer of many of the early public risk management manuals and texts that were and still are utilized throughout the United States today, including PRIMA's *Public Sector Risk Management Manual* and the Risk Management for Public Entities (RMPE 352) text, which is still utilized by the Insurance Institute of America," said Fann.

Hudgens' career spans nearly three decades and her accomplishments are varied and far-reaching—not just helping those in her home state of Tennessee, but across the United States. Throughout her career, Hudgens has served as a promoter and "cheerleader" for the public risk discipline. Her dedication and perseverance on behalf of public sector risk management has earned her the respect and admiration of her peers. And it has earned her the 2012 Distinguished Service Award. **Congratulations Abbie!** ■