Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., has a passion for public health nursing. Her expertise and her work have influenced whole communities, graduate and undergraduate students, and local, regional and national colleagues.

Dr. Travers Gustafson received both her accelerated nursing degree and her master’s in family and community health from Creighton. She received her B.A. in anthropology in 1971 and earned her Ph.D. in 2007.

She has been a dedicated public health nurse, respected faculty member, advocate for the vulnerable and a role model for faculty and students.

Dr. Travers Gustafson has lived and worked in rural America as a public health nurse. Her anthropology background combined with nursing have prepared her to work with vulnerable populations, including Sudanese immigrants in Omaha and Tanzania, in East Africa. In 2013, she retired as an associate professor of nursing from Creighton.

She has extensive experience in the community, serving on the boards of HONOReform (Hepatitis Outbreaks’ National Organization for Reform), as the vice president for the Three Rivers Public Health Department, Saunders County Health Department and the Pioneer Mental Health Foundation. She has also worked with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, Nebraska AIDS project volunteers, and Children for Children: Nebraska to Africa.

Dr. Travers Gustafson is the recipient of numerous awards, such as the Maurine Hamilton Award for outstanding graduate women and the Jefferson Award for Community Service. Her research explores health concerns and needs of refugees and their communities in Omaha and she is also working to reveal how faculty integrate public health concepts in nursing curriculum.

For her research and focus on public health in her local and world-wide communities and for her dedication to her students, her profession and her patients, Diane Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., is a most deserving recipient of the 2015 College of Nursing Alumni Merit Award.