Thomas F. Gilbert Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Carl Binder, CPT, PhD

Named after a foundational contributor to the field of HPT, this award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge and practice of HPT. This year the award is bestowed on Carl Binder, CPT, PhD.



Carl has always been both student and teacher, committed to passing on what he learns to others. He began his career as a doctoral student in Experimental Psychology at Harvard, invited by B. F. Skinner after a lively correspondence begun while still in college. Since studying with Skinner, he has devoted himself to synthesizing, applying, and communicating the findings of behavior science for practical application, in plain language, as widely as possible. He was Associate Director of a human behavior research laboratory from 1973 to 1982, conducting basic and applied research in performance measurement, learning, instruction, and teacher training. He began consulting in 1974, founding four companies, most recently The Performance Thinking Network, with his partner, Cynthia Riha.

Carl is grateful to have learned from previous Gilbert Award recipients, including Tom Gilbert himself, Og Lindsley, Joe Harless, Bob

Horn, Don Tosti, Roger Kaufman, and Geary Rummler. His decades of work in Precision Teaching and fluency-based instruction led the American Psychological Association to honor him with the Fred S. Keller Award in 2004. Applying what he learned from Skinner and Lindsley, he has written and taught about practical approaches to performance measurement and decision-making. For almost 30 years, Carl has developed and refined what is now called the Six Boxes® Approach, based on what he learned from Gilbert and Harless. More recently, he has worked with Lean process improvement and organizational culture, integrating what he learned from Rummler and Tosti into the Six Boxes Approach. Kaufman's concept of Mega has informed his work for over a decade, and Horn's Information Mapping and Visual Language methodologies have influenced virtually everything he's tried to communicate for over 25 years.

Carl has published articles, chapters, and columns on education and educational policy, sales, marketing, customer service, instructional design, knowledge management, performance measurement, and human performance technology. He has trained graduate students, and delivered presentations, workshops and coaching around the world. Carl has belonged to ISPI since the mid 1980s, and has served on committees, led chapters, and spoken at nearly every conference since then. He was awarded Honorary Lifetime Member in 2009, and has always hoped that his contributions would some day merit the Gilbert Award. Carl has gained a deep respect from his peers and is continually coaching younger talent. He has made significant contributions to the knowledge base of human performance technology over the past decades and is grateful for the Society's recognition of his contributions.