



Washington County Historical Society



Dr. Richard Whitehead

The Washington County Historical Society is proud to present the **2025 Distinguished Citizen Award** to Dr. Richard G. Whitehead. This distinguished honor, presented at our annual Utah's Dixie History Preservation Gala, recognizes Dr. Whitehead's lifelong commitment to healthcare, higher education, and civic service in Southern Utah. Through his pioneering work in dentistry, leadership in local institutions, and advocacy for preserving the history and heritage of Utah's Dixie, he has enriched the community and ensured that Washington County's story and values continue to inspire future generations.xxx

Key Contributions to Southern Utah

- Native of St. George, Utah, born and raised in the heart of Utah's Dixie.
- Graduate of Dixie High School and Dixie College, later earning degrees from BYU and Creighton University School of Dentistry (DDS, 1970).
- Returned to St. George after an oral surgery internship in Baltimore and practiced dentistry and oral surgery locally for more than 25 years.
- Pioneer of dental implants and oral implantology in Southern Utah, placing some of the region's first implants and advancing local oral-surgery standards.

Civic Engagement

- Served on the St. George City Council, contributing to community planning and civic development.
- President of the St. George Rotary Club and board member of the Chamber of Commerce, promoting local business and community growth.
- Founding member and director of the Heritage Arts Foundation Board (Tuacahn), helping establish one of Southern Utah's most celebrated cultural landmarks.
- Served on the advisory board for Zions Bank (Southern Utah Region) and the board of Strata Corporation, supporting regional economic development.
- Currently serves on the Advisory Board of Rocky Vista University in Ivins, Utah.
- Currently serves on the Board of Liberty Village in Hurricane, Utah.

Awards and Recognition

- Honored as “Man of the Year” (1995) by the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce for outstanding civic leadership.
- Recipient of the Utah Dental Association's Distinguished Service Award (2001) for professional and community excellence.
- Received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from the Utah State Board of Regents in 2000 for his contributions to higher education and the Dixie community.

Advocacy and Heritage Preservation

- Actively involved in preserving and promoting Washington County's history, contributing to local historical projects and educational outreach.
- Known for his lifelong advocacy of the Dixie heritage, helping ensure its story and values continue to be shared with future generations.