

## **Marcia Smith Receives APTA's 2011 State Legislative Leadership Award**

In recognition of her leadership and commitment to advancing Vision 2020 in the state legislative arena, the APTA Board of Directors awarded the 2011 State Legislative Leadership Award to **Marcia Smith** during the 2011 APTA State Policy & Payment Forum in Austin, Texas. The award was established by the APTA Board of Directors to recognize individual leaders in the area of state legislative leadership, and to bring increased awareness and involvement to state legislative issues. Individuals who receive this award go above and beyond the norm in their commitment to advance and protect our profession in their respective state legislatures.

**Marcia Smith** served as co-chair of the Colorado Chapter's task force to address the scheduled sunset of the Colorado physical therapy practice act in 2011. Her leadership in the 2011 legislative session led to the achievement of the most successful sunset review of the physical therapy practice act on record. Most notably, Colorado Senate Bill 169:

- Restores a **seven**-member independent Board of Physical Therapy, replacing the advisory committee operating under the state Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA);
- Establishes regulation and title protection for physical therapist assistants for the first time in the state's history, eliminating Colorado as one of the last two states where physical therapist assistants remained unregulated;
- Allows the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate rules on continuing competency;
- Adds wound care to the definition of "physical therapy"; and,
- Requires that licensed physical therapists in the state maintain professional liability coverage.

In fact, all changes recommended by the Colorado Chapter's Sunset Task Force were accepted by the Colorado legislature and signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper. Marcia's leadership with the Sunset Task Force is only the latest example of her involvement in legislative issues during her 40+ years as a member of APTA and the Colorado Chapter, and more than 20 years as a member of the chapter's Government Affairs Committee. Her experience with **three** past sunset reviews, as well as numerous other legislative initiatives over the years, were invaluable to the chapter's efforts on SB 169.