4th ANNUAL IIDA MICHAEL TATUM EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

June 10, 2002, Chicago, IL – The International Interior Design Association’s 4th Annual Michael Tatum Excellence in Education Award (sponsored by Teknion, LLC.), was presented at IIDA’s Eighth Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 9, 2002 by Association President, Cary Johnson, FIIDA.

The 4th Annual IIDA Michael Tatum Educator of the Year Award, carrying a cash prize of $5,550, will be shared this year by two outstanding individuals, Denise Guerin, IIDA and JoAnn Asher Thompson, FIIDA. The award winners will jointly submit scholarly papers or create a presentation for the IIDA membership within the year. This Award was created to demonstrate the commitment of IIDA and Teknion to interior design education, and also celebrates the life and career of an outstanding educator and IIDA member, Michael Tatum, FIIDA, who passed away in 1998.

Dr. Denise A. Guerin, University of Minnesota, is a leader and visionary chair of the interior design program. She has demonstrated her skills as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel (1995-1998), and as Acting Associate Dean for the College of Human Ecology (1999-2000). Dr. Guerin’s teaching excellence has been honored by her induction into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers of the University of Minnesota (1999-2004), the receipt of the Horace T. Morse-Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education (1998), and acceptance of the College’s McFarland Creative Teaching Award.

Beyond the college, Dr. Guerin co-chaired the Design and Planning Affinity Group (1996-1999). The design and Planning Affinity Group is composed of intercollegiate faculty assembled to examine design thinking on a university-wide basis to determine how to best support the state’s need for design and to explore their valuation of design. A combination of a great breadth of knowledge, creativity, problem solving, and inclusiveness, she motivates others to work effectively and professionally.

Dr. Guerin orchestrates the design community’s involvement by sitting on the interior design program advisory board. She excels as a scholar as well as a teacher and has graciously shared her passion and expertise for scholarship through many collaborations. Dr. Guerin has been published 14 times since 1992 in various journals and invited publications. She is innovative in her efforts to continually examine the composition of the curriculum and how it can respond to the changes in practice and teaching methods.
Dr. Jo Ann Asher Thompson, Washington State University Spokane, has been intimately involved in the development of two cutting-edge projects. The first was the development of the Interdisciplinary Design Institute. Considered one of the most unique and successful collaborative experiences, the IDI recreates “real world” relationships between interior designers, architects, and landscape architects through truly interdisciplinary studios guided by an interdisciplinary faculty. Dr. Thompson designed the conceptual model for the curriculum, which has led to the Doctor of Design program that is to be implemented by Fall 2003. Dr. Thompson designed the conceptual model for the interdisciplinary graduate curriculum that focused on the extraction of the disciplines’ individual core values and then translated into courses appropriate for interior design, architecture, and landscape architecture students.

Prior to her administrative appointment in 1985, Dr. Thompson’s scholarship focused on professional installations and textural artwork as evidenced by her juried exhibitions at the Columbia Art League Gallery and the IDEC exhibition. She developed a series of journal articles focusing on the social perception of furniture styles. Her work has been cited in other articles demonstrating its validity and has prompted international requests for presentations at a variety of conferences (Ireland, Japan, Korea). Professional organizations have identified her contributions by inviting her to participate in panel discussions regarding interior design curricula, such as the IIDA Curriculum Discourse, and the Polsky Issues Forum Regarding Research and Graduate Education.

Over the last 20 years, Dr. Thompson has directed students through graduate work, doctoral dissertations and theses. As a constant champion of Interior Design research, she inspires students with her passion and enthusiasm and supplements the experience with intelligence, sensitivity, and rigor. Dr. Thompson has also been working on the Washington Education Communication and Network system (WECAN). This system was developed in response to a program being located on two campuses with the goal of increasing communication between faculty and students. Although still in the developmental phase, the system is to be tested in the studio environment where students on different campuses may interact with each other and faculty.

Due to her outstanding record of leadership and involvement, Dr. Thompson has been awarded Fellow Status in IIDA and IDEC.

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The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is a professional networking and educational association of more than 10,000 members in eight specialty Forums, nine Regions, and more than 30 Chapters around the world. IIDA is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in interior design and advancing interior design through knowledge. IIDA advocates for interior design excellence; provides superior industry information; nurtures a global interior design community; maintains educational standards; and responds to trends in business and design. Additional information is available on IIDA’s website www.iida.org.