I am pleased to announce that Professor David Cooperrider has been named the recipient of the Distinguished Contribution to Workplace Learning and Performance Award by ASTD—the American Society for Training and Development. This award is presented to him in recognition of his work in Appreciative Inquiry and the impact he has had on the training and development profession. Previous recipients of the award have included Malcolm Knowles, Robert Mager, Peter Senge, Geary Rummler, Gloria Gery, Roger Schank, Allison Rossett and Meg Wheatley.

From their letter informing David about this honor:

"As a not-for-profit organization, ASTD provides leadership to individuals, organizations, and society to achieve work-related competence, performance and fulfillment. Part of our mission is to spotlight leaders and practitioners who are role models for others. It is truly fitting that you receive this award because of your pioneering thought leadership on building better organizations and communities. You have given us a new approach, based on unconditional positive change, to organizational learning and workplace performance."

Here is what Richard Beckhard said when he introduced David Cooperrider and the theme of the future:

“Appreciative Inquiry is, in my view, an exciting breakthrough, one that signals a change in the way we think about change… We are looking at something very important—AI will be of enduring consequence and energizing innovation for the field. That’s my prediction. And that is why we are going to give it more attention in this session” (quoted in Jane Watkins and Bernard Mohr’s book tracing the history and impact of Appreciative Inquiry, 2001, p. xxv).