

News Release

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NASPA™

Student Affairs Administrator
in Higher Education

University of California-Merced Vice Provost given NASPA National Award

Elizabeth Whitt honored for her research and scholarship in student affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Elizabeth Whitt, vice provost and dean for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Sociology at the University of California-Merced, was selected as the 2015 recipient of the George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award. Whitt has been the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of four books, five monographs, 10 chapters and 28 journal articles. She has more than 3,000 scholarly citations. And, she produced this scholarship and research while holding major administrative appointments in addition to her roles as a faculty member.

Whitt was the director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Iowa and associate vice president and dean for Undergraduate Education at St. Louis University before her current position at the University of California, Merced. She also served as Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration at both universities.

Her scholarship has been central to informing student affairs practice including the books *Involving Colleges* and *Student Success in College*, which have become classics and are frequently required reading in master's and doctoral programs. Her published policy pieces and empirical research have been published in journals like the *Journal of College Student Development*, *NASPA Journal*, *Journal of Higher Education* and *Review of Higher Education*.

Several years ago her scholarly contributions were honored by the American College Personnel Association with its prestigious *Contribution to Knowledge Award*. Prior to that, she received the *Early Career Research Achievement Award* from the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Her colleagues say her works have been transformative for student affairs educators.

“I think I can be so bold to claim that she has been the leader in the last quarter century in facilitating conversations about how student and academic affairs units can work together to enhance the student experience,” says John Schuh, director of the School of Education at Iowa State University. “She is a superb qualitative methodologist and holds herself and her colleagues to the highest level of rigor in the studies in which she is involved.”

Whitt and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans, La.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 13,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.