

News Release

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University of Denver professor given NASPA National Award

Samuel Museus honored for his work on racial inclusiveness in higher education

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Samuel Museus, associate professor of Higher Education in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver, was selected as the 2014 recipient of the George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award. Museus has produced more than 120 publications and national presentations focused on understanding the racial, cultural and structural factors that affect the outcomes of diverse populations.

While his research advocates for the inclusion of all students, he is especially known for the visibility and voice he has given to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Shaun Harper, executive director for the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, says Museus is the, “foremost thinker and writer on this population.”

One of Museus’ latest book is titled *Creating Campus Cultures: Fostering Success Among Racially Diverse Students*. Harper says the book provides, “a sophisticated understanding of why racial inequities are repeatedly remanufactured and how minority persons often experience campus environments differently than their White counterparts.”

Colleagues use his research to foster inclusion on their own campuses.

Sumun Pendakur, associate dean for Institutional Diversity at Harvey Mudd College, says that when she served as Director for Asian Pacific American Student Services at the University of Southern California, Museus’ work on Asian American students in higher education directly informed her programmatic decisions.

“His incredibly diverse body of research is so far-reaching in scope, and truly provides voice and space for under-researched populations, as well as offering direct interventions at all levels of our institutions for equity-oriented change,” Pendakur says.

“He has ignited my own commitment to contributing academic research and he continues to generate research, that when applied, can truly address access and equity needs in higher education,” says Mamta Accapadi, vice president of Student Affairs at Rollins College.

Museus and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2014 NASPA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md.

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