

News Release

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Indiana State University Professor recipient of NASPA Award

Brian McGowan receives Melvene D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Brian McGowan, assistant professor of Student Affairs and Higher Education at Indiana State University, is the 2014 recipient of the Melvene D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award. McGowan was honored for his dissertation titled, “Images of Male Friendships: An Investigation of How African American Undergraduate Men Develop Interpersonal Relationships with Other Men at a Predominantly White Institution.”

This award recognizes outstanding dissertation research conducted by doctoral degree recipients presently in or intending to enter the student affairs profession.

After an intensive review and selection process, McGowan was selected as the 2014 recipient due to the high quality and content of his research. Hardee Dissertation Committee member, Susan Marine stated, “this dissertation stood out to me as the best work of the three finalists. The questions were clearly stated, the literature review was complex and yet readable, and the way the researcher approached both the method and the analysis was incredibly detailed, time consuming, and rich. I felt like I truly understood both the issue and the complexity better after reading this submission. The author is very gifted and will make important contributions to higher education and the study of men and masculinity in the future.”

Christa J. Porter, assistant professor of Higher Adult and Lifelong Education at Michigan State University was the runner up for this award. Her dissertation was titled, “Identity Development in Black Undergraduate Women: A Grounded Theory Study.”

McGowan and Porter were selected by a review committee made up of members from NASPA’s seven regions. These members include: Review Committee Chair Annemarie Vaccaro and Review Committee Members Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo, Tamara Bertrand Jones, Marilee Bresciani, Tony Cawthon, Susan Marine, Phyllis McClusky-Titus and Diane Waryas.

The award is funded by the NASPA Foundation. For more information or to donate, visit the [NASPA Foundation](#).

McGowan and Porter were honored in March at the 2014 NASPA Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md.