

News Release

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NASPA™

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

Michelle Van-Ess honored for commitment to assessment

Awarded Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award from NASPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Michelle Van-Ess, director of Student Life at the SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology, was selected as the recipient of the 2015 NASPA Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional Award.

This national award recognizes individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the student affairs profession by creating environments that promote student learning and personal development.

Van-Ess was hired at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in August of 2011. Since then, the campus has seen a 35 percent increase in campus engagement. Colleagues contribute the increase to Van-Ess' efforts focused on rebranding, student advocacy, strategic planning, advisor training and support, have directly increased campus programming and philanthropy.

She also increased the office's emphasis on leadership and community service, which resulted in FIT being named on President Obama's Community Service Honor Roll in 2011 and 2012.

New York University named Van-Ess as the 2013 recipient of the Michael Parkes Distinguished Multicultural Alumni Award, highlighting her continued work within the NYU community. She also has served NASPA on the African-American Knowledge Community, the Region II Board, the Host Committee for the 2013 Region II Conference, and was recently appointed to the Region II Advisory Committee.

Her colleagues say she is an outstanding leader with impeccable dedication and professionalism.

"Michelle is an outstanding professional who continually exceeds expectations as a leader, student advocate and as a mentor to both her students and her faculty and staff," says Erik Kneubuehl, dean of students at FIT.

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

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