

News Release

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NASPA™

Student Affairs Administrators
in Higher Education

Northwestern University President given NASPA National Award

Morton Schapiro recipient of the 2015 NASPA President's 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. Morton Schapiro, president of Northwestern University, was selected to receive the 2015 NASPA President's Award. The award gives special recognition to a college or university president who has, over a sustained period of time, advanced the quality of student life on campus by supporting student affairs staff and programs.

Schapiro is a leading economist on higher education as well as Northwestern's 16th president who still manages to teach economics with great passion to undergraduate students annually. He is a prolific author with seven books and over 100 articles published primarily on access to higher education and financial aid.

Access is a priority for President Schapiro. He established a goal of raising \$125 million for financial aid by the year 2019. In support of this goal, he has raised more than \$67 million in the last four years. In addition to fundraising dollars, President Schapiro has made it a priority to dedicate additional institutional funds for financial aid. Since his arrival, the amount of available funds has increased from just over \$90 million to more than \$150 million. This substantial increase has changed the demographics of the Northwestern student body. Slightly under 50 percent of incoming freshman attending Northwestern are students of color. He has also introduced programs to Northwestern that contribute to its diversity or open the door to students attending Chicago public schools to participate in programs that prepare them for college.

In addition, Schapiro is accessible to the students at Northwestern. Each year more than 700 students dine at his home, with 260 just last fall. Annually, he participates in an average of 20 fireside chats with 30 or more attendees and 50 visits to student groups on campus. He holds close to 60 student meetings in his office. He is also very committed to both female and male sporting events, demonstrated by his high attendance at multiple events and practices for a variety of our teams.

His colleagues in the office of student affairs say they have a true partner in President Schapiro.

“Parents of students trust him and relate to his genuine and informal style, and our students feel as if ‘Morty’ is not just their president, but their advocate and champion,” says the student affairs leadership team at Northwestern. “It is this accessibility to and advocacy for the student experience that helps define President Schapiro’s philosophy and approach with our students. In short – he cares about our students, and is beloved by them.”

“I am honored to receive this award,” President Schapiro said, “especially because I have made it an absolute priority for University leadership to work intentionally to improve opportunities and access for all our students. My goal is for Northwestern students to pursue their passions and dreams here and to thrive in an educational environment that is welcoming, inspiring and inclusive.”

Schapiro 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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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.