

News Release

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Rollins College vice president receives NASPA award *Mamta Motwani Accapadi recipient of the Zenobia Hikes Memorial 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. Mamta Motwani Accapadi, vice president for student affairs at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fl., is the 2015 recipient of the Zenobia Hikes Memorial Award from NASPA.

The Award, sponsored by the Center for Women, recognizes a NASPA member who has demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of women in higher education and to student affairs. The member must have at least ten years of full time work in Student Affairs and have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of women in higher education and to student affairs, through mentoring and professional development activities. The award winner must also have a strong evidence of contributions to the development of students as engaged citizens and ethical leaders and a record of community service to the profession and locally.

Accapadi was selected by a group of judges on the Center for Women Board. Nominees say, “Dr. Accapadi role-models inclusive leadership, and critical advocacy in the field of Higher Education and Student Affairs. Her scholarship and practice are a testament to her commitment to mentoring women and people of color. Dr. Accapadi’s scholarship focuses on social justice education, Asian American identity, and intersectionality with race and gender. Her publications are successful at engaging in critical dialogues and uplifting marginalized and often silenced narratives of women of color in the academe. Ultimately her work advances a womanist framework and helps practitioners and scholars create a more racially inclusive and empowering professional and academic environment for all women.”

Accapadi will be honored March 23 at Center for Women/Women in Student Affairs reception during the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans, La. She was given a registration fee waiver to send the student of her choice to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

The Zenobia Lawrence Hikes Memorial Award has just been established to honor Hikes, vice president of student affairs at Virginia Tech University, who passed away in October, 2008. Hikes was a remarkable woman who embodied the mission of the Center for Women, working for the equality of women throughout her life. A talented educator, advocate and mentor, Hikes was a pillar of her community and brought her courageous spirit and compassionate nature to the work of promoting academic excellence in her students and assisting persons in need.

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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 14,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.