

News Release

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President of WICHE given NASPA National Award

David Longanecker honored for his research and scholarship in student affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, was selected as the 2016 recipient of the George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award.

Longanecker has been president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in Boulder, Colo. Since 1999. Dr. Longanecker has served on numerous boards and commissions and has written extensively on a range of higher education issues.

His primary interests in higher education are: expanding access to successful completion for students within all sectors of higher education, promoting student and institutional performance, assuring efficient and effective finance and financial aid strategies, and fostering effective use of educational technologies, all for the purpose of sustaining the nation's strength in the world and increasing the quality of life for all Americans, particularly those who have traditionally been left out in the past.

“I am greatly honored to receive this award,” Longanecker says. “I began my higher education career in student affairs in residence life at the George Washington University. And while it has been a long time since I worked directly in the field, it provided an exceptional base from which to pursue the wonderful career I have had in state and federal policy work. My student affairs background has kept me grounded in understanding that our reason for being is to serve our students. Thanks for recognizing me, but more so for the great work you do to progress the success of students throughout the nation.”

His books include *Public Policy Challenges Facing Higher Education in the American West* and *Higher Education in the American West: Regional History and State Contexts*.

Previously he served for six years as the assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, developing and implementing national policy and programs that provided more than \$40 billion annually in student aid and \$1 billion to institutions. Prior to that he was the state higher education executive officer (SHEEO) in Colorado and Minnesota.

Longanecker holds an Ed.D. from Stanford University, an M.A. in student personnel work from George Washington University, and a B.A. in sociology from Washington State University.

Longanecker and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2016 NASPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Ind.

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 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.