

News Release

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Lori Patton Davis honored with National Award from NASPA

*Recipient of the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate
Faculty Member*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Lori Patton Davis, associate professor in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program at Indiana University School of Education, has been awarded the Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member by NASPA.

Award winners must be a personal inspiration to graduate students, have served on doctoral committees and have distinguished records of scholarly achievement themselves.

Patton Davis is a scholar, teacher and leader in the profession. She is co-author on the 2nd and 3rd editions of *Student Development in College* and has published critical scholarship in the *Journal of College Student Development*, *Journal of Higher Education*, *Race, Ethnicity and Education* and the *NASPA Journal About Women in Higher Education*

Colleagues say Patton Davis could choose to be an outstanding researcher and an acceptable teacher, but instead has consciously elected to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to both.

“I do not know another person who works as hard at balancing teaching and research,” says Shaun Harper, associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania. “Professor Patton Davis is one of the most committed, thoughtful and courageous teachers I have ever met.”

Harper says Patton Davis challenges her students to engage tough topics that most professors would rather avoid.

“She is more concerned about preparing culturally competent student affairs professionals than she is about scoring flawless teaching evaluations,” Harper says. “No matter the cost, allowing students to leave her courses with unexamined assumptions regarding race, class, sexual orientation, power, privilege, and social injustice is simply not an option. Moreover, she masterfully fosters an environment where every student is invited and expected to share her or his lived experiences.”

In 2010, the Association for the Study of Higher Education recognized her research excellence with its Early Career Award. ACPA presented her its Emerging Scholar and Annuit Coeptis awards in 2005. And, she has also been a NASPA Faculty Fellow. Moreover she recognized campus recognition with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Multicultural Teaching.

Patton Davis 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.