

News Release

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Annemarie Vaccaro awarded National Award from NASPA

George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research 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. Annemarie Vaccaro, associate professor, University of Rhode Island, was selected as the recipient of the *2017 George D. Kuh Outstanding Contribution to Literature and/or Research Award*.

This award honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to research and scholarship related to higher education. The honoree's work must address important and substantial issues, and have had a significant or transformative effect on higher education and student affairs practice in a national or international context.

In her role as associate professor, University of Rhode Island, Vaccaro has been involved in a variety of social justice programs (LGBT Fellows), events (Women's Leadership Initiative), and committees (e.g., Equity Council, President's LGBTQ Commission, Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force). She is also committed to being actively engaged in both the field of student affairs and the URI community.

"Dr. Vaccaro has co-authored three books, 25 journal articles, 12 book chapters, six invited publications, and countless presentations," notes Brian McCoy, professor of psychology at Nichols College. "Her research has furthered our understanding of a number of topics including the experience of students of color and LGBT students on campus, supporting students with disabilities, and campus climate."

Prior to her work at University of Rhode Island, Vaccaro was a student affairs practitioner, working largely in residence life, living and learning community, and service learning offices. Vaccaro has served on numerous NASPA boards. Vaccaro is the proud co-author of the 2013 NASPA book *Decisions Matter: Using a Decision Making Framework with Contemporary Student Affairs Case Studies*. She also coauthored: *Safe Spaces: Making Schools and Communities Welcoming to LGBT youth* (2016, Prager) and *Centering Women of Color in Academic Counterspaces: A Critical Race Analysis of Teaching, Learning, and Classroom Dynamics* (2016, Lexington Press).

"Dr. Vaccaro is an exceptional researcher, she has a deep and thorough grounding in both theoretical and empirical literature that informs her critical analysis of inequalities in higher education contexts," says Barbara M. Newman, professor emeritus, University of Rhode Island "Dr. Vaccaro has had a profound influence on the culture and climate for LGBTQ students."

Vaccaro and the other National Award winners will be honored in March at the 2017 NASPA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

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.