

News Release

For Release: Jan 30., 2017

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Melinda Stoops awarded National Award from NASPA

AVP/Senior-Level Student Affairs Professional 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. Melinda Stoops, associate vice president of student affairs/dean of students, Framingham State University, was selected as the recipient of the *2017 AVP/Senior-Level Student Affairs Professional Award*.

This award honors a student affairs professional at the AVP or senior-level whose outstanding commitment to the profession includes development of programs that address the needs of students, creation of a campus environment that promotes student learning and development, and support of and active engagement in NASPA.

In her role as associate vice president of student affairs/dean of students, Stoops has enhanced services for students, created a mentoring program for students, developed a culture of ongoing professional development within student affairs, and led a division of nine direct reports that include: First Year Programs, Student Involvement and Leadership Development, Residence Life and Housing, Career Services and Employer Relations, Counseling Center, Health Services, Veteran Services, Campus Ministry, and Community Standards.

“Melinda understands the wide array of ways students can struggle and the many ways they need help. She was the person who worked to create our Student Veterans Service office,” remarks Lorretta M. Holloway, vice president of enrollment and student development. “She has been a champion for the staff in her division, not only her data-driven explanation of staffing needs, but also in her understanding of their concerns about changes to their benefits.”

Prior to her work at Framingham State University, Stoops was involved in counseling and psychological services at Indiana University, and earned her Ph.D. from Indiana State University. Stoops is NASPA’s Region I Chair, Nominations and Elections. She currently serves as both chair and member for a variety of committees at Framingham State University.

“When one of our students was tragically killed in an automobile accident involving alcohol and no seat belts, she developed the Live Safe program,” praises Rachel Lucking, assistant dean for campus engagement, Framingham State University. “She also empowers us to think outside of the box, try new ideas, and work on areas outside of comfort zone.”

Stoops 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.