

News Release

For Release: Oct. 7, 2014

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NASPA Foundation announces the 2015 Pillars of the Profession

Awards honor outstanding members of student affairs community

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The NASPA Foundation is pleased to recognize outstanding members of the student affairs and higher education community through the Pillars of the Profession. The Pillars award is designed to honor individuals who have served as teachers, leaders, and scholars in the field who:

- Sustained professional distinction in the higher education field, as defined by donors and supporters;
- Served in leadership roles in NASPA, either regionally or nationally;
- Are recognized or remembered by colleagues, friends, students, or student organizations for extraordinary service; and
- Have made significant lifetime contributions to the higher education field.

“The men and women being recognized are true pillars upon whose work many have benefited,” says Foundation Board Chair Frank Ardaiole from Winthrop University. “They have all served above and beyond in the growing global world of student affairs and higher education.”

The NASPA Foundation Board of Directors is honored to designate each of the following as a 2015 Pillar of the Profession:

Kevin Bailey, University of West Florida
Rosie P. Bingham, University of Memphis
Kari Ellingson, The University of Utah
Anna Gonzalez, Lewis and Clark
Ellen Heffernan, The Spelman and Johnson Group
Brent Paterson, Illinois State University
Enrique Ramos, Tecnológico de Monterrey
Richard Rossi, Creighton University
Melissa Vito, University of Arizona
Vernon Wall, Leadershape
Laura Wankel, Northeastern University
Jeanine Ward-Roof, Ferris State University

In addition to the Pillars of the Profession, the Foundation also awards the John L. Blackburn Distinguished Pillar award. This award is the NASPA Foundation’s highest honor and awarded

in conjunction with the Pillars of the Profession. The award honors a previous Pillar of the Profession who has continued to contribute the field. For 2015, the Foundation recognizes:

Jon C. Dalton, Florida State University
Alice Manicur, Frostburg State University

This new class of Pillars will be honored at the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans, La. As part of the Pillars program, the NASPA Foundation accepts gifts in the name of each honoree. These gifts come back to the student affairs profession as scholarships, research grants and awards.

Please help us celebrate the 2015 Pillars with a donation in his or her honor to the NASPA Foundation. Your gifts ensure the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession and help answer the challenges we face as educators. You may donate [online](#) and learn more about the Foundation's Pillar class [online](#).

Note to media: All winners have been notified, so feel free to reach out to them directly. They will be officially honored by the Foundation during the 2015 NASPA Annual Conference March 21-25 in New Orleans, La.

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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 13,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.