

News Release

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Arthur Chickering autobiography published by NASPA

One of the leading researchers in student development theory tells about his life and career

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education publishes an autobiography by student affairs legend Arthur W. Chickering. In the book, “Cool Passion: Challenging Higher Education,” Chickering shares candidly about his life and career.

“Art Chickering gives us an incredible gift as he shares his personal experiences, values, and beliefs, as well as his professional reflections,” says Gwen Dungy, executive director emeritus of NASPA. “It is fitting that he shares a holistic perspective that is in line with his foundational philosophy of student affairs and the premise of promoting learning that lasts.”

Chickering is one of the leading researchers in student development theory and its implications for higher education. In 1969 he published “Education and Identity,” which posited seven vectors to describe the personal development of students during college. It received the 1969 American Council on Education’s Eleanor Colford Morris book award for its contribution to higher education, and that recognition took Chickering out of the woods of Vermont and propelled him onto the national scene.

In “Cool Passion,” he recounts his childhood and adolescent years in New England, detailing his misadventures in school and struggles to find purpose and meaning—experiences that would lay the foundation for his lifelong values and beliefs.

The second part of the book centers on Chickering’s 50-plus year career and five key areas where he has contributed to critical changes: civic learning and democratic engagement, assessment, pedagogy, student services and student diversity. He and five coauthors address these areas that reflect both emerging issues in higher education as well as many of Chickering’s major accomplishments. He offers a personal perspective that puts flesh and blood on these changes and suggests where higher education can go from here, consistent with his longstanding commitment to human development.

The book is available on the [NASPA website](http://www.naspa.org) and retails for \$34.95.

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