

## News Release

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**NASPA**<sup>®</sup>

Student Affairs Administrators  
in Higher Education

### **Rhode Island College faculty named 2017 Pillar of the Profession**

*Award honors President Frank D. Sanchez*

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. Frank Sanchez President in higher education at Rhode Island College has been named a 2017 Pillar of the Profession. NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education is the leading association for student affairs professionals.

“Dr. Sanchez is reliable, adaptable, and a responsible professional. His overall contributions to the field of Student Affairs are numerous,” says Edward F. Martinez, Assistant Dean of Student Services/Director of Counseling, Suffolk County Community College. “I have had the good fortune to interact with Dr. Sanchez first-hand and know how much of a valuable and integral member he is to the field of Student Affairs.”

For over 20 years, Sánchez has advanced teaching and learning by supporting innovative public-private partnerships, student services, programs, policies and external funding aimed at increasing student success and degree completion. Dr. Frank D. Sánchez took office as the 10th President of Rhode Island College in 2016. Previously, he served as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the City University of New York (CUNY) in New York City. At CUNY, America’s largest urban public university which enrolls over 500,000 students on 24 campuses, Sánchez was responsible for providing system-wide leadership in the coordination, delivery and evaluation of a student-centered university culture that supports all students.

“Frank was someone who I could call at moment’s notice, ask for advice, and support when we wanted to launch ideas – and call upon him we did,” says Gregory J. Toya, P Director, Student Development, El Camino Community College District). “Frank always provided a mature perspective, made sure we did not default into focusing solely on barriers, and moved us forward.”

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 class of Pillars will be honored at the 2017 NASPA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. 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 2017 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](#).

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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 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.*