

News Release

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Robert Schwartz awarded National Award from NASPA

Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) recognizes members who are doing outstanding work in the student affairs profession. Robert Schwartz, professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida State University, was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member.

This award, named for a dean and professor emeritus at Indiana University, is presented to a tenured, full-time faculty member in a graduate preparation program in student affairs. Each Robert H. Shaffer Award recipient has inspired graduate students and served on doctoral dissertation committees; has a distinguished record of scholarly achievement, including publication in relevant literature; and has made significant contributions to professional associations.

In his role as professor of higher education in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida State University, Schwartz teaches courses in higher education, student affairs and the history of education. He currently serves as his department's chair and the program director for the Certificate in Institutional Research.

“I would have never finished my doctoral degree were it not for Dr. Schwartz, and I suspect there are others on the long list of more than 70 students he has assisted who would attest to the same,” asserts Dennis Pruitt, vice president for student affairs, vice provost, and dean of students, University of South Carolina. “Absent his intervention and his devoted commitment to my education, I would not have enjoyed my career, and most certainly would not have had the success over my 37 years at Carolina.”

Prior to his work at Florida State, Schwartz was briefly at Valdosta State University in south Georgia, where he taught courses in educational research, and the University of South Carolina, where he was a faculty member in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program. He was an assistant dean of students at the University of North Dakota from 1974 to 1984. He earned his bachelor's degree at Hanover College in 1973, master's degree at Ball State University in 1974, and his Ph.D. at Indiana University in 1990.

Schwartz has been active member of NASPA for many years and has served on numerous committees, including the Faculty Fellows, and served as a member and chair of the Hardee Dissertation of the Year committee. He has served on editorial boards, including the *Journal of College and Character* (2008-2015), the *NASPA Journal About Women* (2008-present), and the *Journal of Retention: Research, Theory & Practice* (2000-2010), that provide not only service to professional associations, but also to the profession. He has published over 30 journal articles, 10 book chapters and monographs, and made over 70 presentations at conferences. In 2010, he

published a book, *Deans of Men and the Shaping of Modern College Culture* (Palgrave). He is currently working on a book about George W. Zook and the American Council on Education.

Since his arrival at Florida State University in 1998, he has served as chair for 49 doctoral students, been a member of 104 doctoral committees, and chaired over 100 master's degree students. He is also active in American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), American Education Research Association (AERA), American Institutes for Research (AIR), and the Southern History of Education Society.

“Dr. Schwartz has advanced knowledge, especially in the history of higher education. As a mentor and faculty advisor, he continually demonstrates his commitment to student success,” remarks Mary B. Coburn, vice president for student affairs at Florida State University. “Bob contributes daily to students advancing toward their goals. He is a tremendous asset to Florida State.”

Schwartz 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.