

2020 AASP School Psychologist of the Year

Marsha Spencer, PhD

Our recipient for the AASP School Psychologist of the Year for 2020 is Marsha Spencer, PhD. Our nominees for this award are school psychologists whose practice embodies the NASP Practice Model and whose practice utilizes all aspects of service delivery defined by the domains of practice.

Spencer is currently the Program Director for the University of Arizona's School Psychology Program at UA Chandler as well as an Assistant Professor of Practice with a teaching focus on assessment and field based supervision. She practiced in the Tempe Elementary School District and Mesa Public Schools prior to her move into academia. Spencer has been active on the AASP Board for several years in a variety of roles including current chairperson for the Child and Family Advocacy Committee.

According to her colleagues, Spencer is an exemplary school psychologist. As a Program Director, she has been diligent in her efforts to make sure the NASP Practice Model was integrated and thoughtfully embedded into coursework, experiences and assignments designed to effectively develop future psychologists. She is committed to rigorous training and the ongoing mentoring of her students, always making herself available to offer advice and support. They note that she is an invaluable role model for her students, as she is an expert in school psychology practice and also committed to professional standards and academic rigor.

Her colleagues share that Spencer is dedicated to making sure that her students experience the highest quality of education by closely monitoring their practicum field experiences. She maintains close contact with those supervisors working with her students, as well as training them in the art and science of supervision. She has been integral in the development of the Internship Fair with other trainers to assist students with finding their best next steps. Spencer worked with other trainers to find problem solutions for graduate students whose program closed to enable them to complete their studies.



Her colleagues note that during the earliest days of the pandemic, Spencer found a way to reach out to her colleagues state wide and offered free professional development opportunities on topics such as suicide risk assessment, culturally competent practices, teacher student relationships and how to take care of oneself when helping others. She organized presenters and coordinated the information shared during a time when school psychologists, colleagues and trainers were all in need of professional support. Spencer's role as an advocate for students, faculty, colleagues and the professional community is well known, and for this reason, she has been chosen as the AASP 2020 School Psychologist of the Year.

2020 AASP Keith Perkins Lifetime Achievement Award

Barbara Roth, PhD

The Keith Perkins Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to an individual whose lifetime contributions and body of work have set them apart as among the best school psychologists in the field. The criteria for receiving the Keith Perkins award focuses on service to students, parents, teachers and administrators, communities and the profession as a whole. Barbara Roth, PhD is this year's Keith Perkins Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Roth served as a school psychologist in Kansas following completion of her doctoral work at the University of Kansas. Upon moving to Arizona, Roth served as a school psychologist in both public and private schools as well as Lead Psychologist in Peoria where she mentored interns



and psychologists in her leadership roles. During her years as an adjunct faculty member at NAU and full time faculty member at Argosy University in the School Psychology program, Roth mentored students assisting them to develop careers mirroring the best practices to which she has always been committed. Roth has assisted her profession by becoming a NASP PREPaRE Trainer sharing her skills with psychologists equally committed to best practices in crisis prevention and intervention.

Her colleagues write this about Roth: "Dr. Roth's long and distinguished career has spanned more than four decades and has been instrumental in promoting the growth of the field of School Psychology. She has proven to be flexible, creative and innovative in working with students. She has embraced the ever-evolving changes within the field."

"As a teacher and mentor, Dr. Roth impressed me with her extensive knowledge base across multiple areas...but it was Dr. Roth's approachable and caring demeanor that made a lasting impression. Her teaching style seamlessly blended practical tips from her many years in school psychology practice with her knowledge of best practices."

"In the classroom, she taught important foundational skills necessary to be a school psychologist. Her mentoring gave me a new outlook and understanding about the human side of being a psychologist. The thing I carry most in my career is how she made me feel... comfortable with the skills I had learned from her but mostly confident in the strengths that I already possessed that would make me the best psychologist that I can be."

For these reasons, AASP has selected Barbara Roth, PhD as our 2020 Recipient of the Keith Perkins Lifetime Achievement Award.