



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 3, 2017**

## **THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION RECOGNIZES THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION**

*Celebrating the nation's best geography educators of 2017*

**WASHINGTON D.C.**— For over a 100 years the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) has worked to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning at all levels of instruction. Through its awards program, NCGE recognizes excellence in geography teaching, mentoring, research, instructional design, and service.

*"Each year we are impressed by the level of innovation, quality, and creativity of all our award nominees,"* said Mr. Zachary R. Dulli, Chief Executive Officer, National Council for Geographic Education. *"Understanding our world is critical to a high-quality education, and these award winners represent the best of the best in providing that to our students."*

Recipients will receive their awards at a special ceremony held during the 2017 National Conference on Geography Education, July 27-July 30 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is pleased to announce our 2017 award winners:

### **THE GEORGE J MILLER AWARD**

#### **FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**

*The Council's highest award, presented for lifetime service in geographic education*

**DONALD ZEIGLER**, *Old Dominion University, Virginia Beach, VA*

### **THE DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD**

*Presented to college and university professors whose guidance and influence is significant for students becoming geographers or classroom teachers*

**JOSEPH STOLTMAN**, *Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI*

**DEREK ALDERMAN**, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN*

### **THE BRUNN CREATIVITY AWARD FOR GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION**

*Presented to K-12 educators who demonstrate innovation and outstanding creativity in the teaching of geography*

**CHRIS BUNIN**, *Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA*

**ANDREW DOJACK**, *William Monroe Middle School, Stanardsville, VA*

**JULIE STAVITSKI**, *Jack Jouett Middle School, Charlottesville, VA*

### **OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION**

*Honors individuals who work outside the formal classroom, but have made outstanding contributions to support geography education*

**PAUL HUNT**, *University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE*

**JOYCE YOUNGBLOOD**, *Mississippi Geographic Alliance, University, MS*

**NAEEMA AL HOSANI**, *United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE*

### **THE HIGHER EDUCATION DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD**

*Recognizes and celebrates excellence in higher education geography teaching and leadership*

**LESLI RAWLINGS**, *Wayne State College, Wayne, NE*

**EZRA ZEITLER**, *University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, WI*

**FENDA AKIWUMI**, *University of South Florida, Tampa, FL*

**CASEY ALLEN**, *University of Colorado, Denver, CO*

**JOSEPH STOLTMAN**, *Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI*

### **GEOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD**

*"The Instructional Guide for The ArcGIS Book"*

**KATHRYN KERANEN**, *James Madison University, Great Falls, VA*

**LYN MALONE**, *Worldview GIS, Barrington, RI*

## **THE K-12 DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS**

*Recognizes excellence in geography teaching at the primary and secondary levels*

**ANDREW DOJACK**, *William Monroe Middle School, Stanardsville, VA*

**BRIAN DAVIS**, *Central Middle School, Bartlesville, OK*

**JULIE STAVITSKI**, *Jack Jouett Middle School, Charlottesville, VA*

**KYLE TREDINNICK**, *Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE*

**MARYANN SANSONETTI-WOOD**, *Spring Valley High School, Columbia, SC*

**LEAANN WYRICK**, *Broken Bow Public Schools, Broken Bow, OK*

**ROBIN MANNING**, *Jack C. Hays High School, Buda, TX*

**ROSA CLARA SALAZAR**, *United High School, Laredo, TX*

## **THE WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

*Is awarded each year to one exceptional female college or university student enrolled in a program leading to a career in geographic education*

**REBECCA KRANITZ**, *University of Montana, Missoula, MT*

## **THE SALVATORE J. NATOLI DISSERTATION AWARD**

*Awarded to encourage dissertation research in geography teaching and learning*

**STACEY KERR**, *Central Michigan University, Pleasant, MI*

## **JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY AWARDS**

### **BEST SECONDARY TEACHING ARTICLE**

*"The Nature of Geography and It's Perspectives in AP Human Geography"*

**ALEXANDER MURPHY**, *University of Oregon, Eugene, OR*

**PHILLIP HARE**, *A.C. Flora High School, Columbia, SC*

### **BEST COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ARTICLE**

*"Future Teachers' Spatial Thinking Skills and Attitudes"*

**EUIKYUNG SHIN**, *Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL*

**ANDREW MILSON**, *The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX*

**THOMAS SMITH**, *Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL*

### **BEST ARTICLE FOR GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

*"GIS Teaching Training: Empirically-Based Indicators of Effectiveness"*

**STEFFEN HOHNLE**, *University of Erlangen, Nuremberg, Germany*

**JANIS FOGELE**, *University of Giessen, Giessen, Germany*

**RAINER MEHREN**, *University of Giessen, Giessen, Germany*

**JAN CHRISTOPH SCHUBERT**, *University of Munster, Munster, Germany*

## **THE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER AWARDS**

### **BEST CONTENT ARTICLE**

*"Red Rural, Blue Rural: The Geography of Presidential Voting in Rural America"*

**DANTE SCALA**, *University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH*

**KENNETH JOHNSON**, *University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH*

### **BEST LESSON PLAN**

*"Traveling With Eighth-Grade Students to Learn About State and Local History"*

**RONALD MORRIS**, *Ball State University, Muncie, IN*

*For more information about the NCGE award program and application process visit [www.ncge.org/awards](http://www.ncge.org/awards)*

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION:** The National Council for Geographic (NCGE) Education is a nonprofit membership organization that works to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of geography teaching and learning. NCGE provides a global forum for educators of all levels to exchange ideas and engage in professional learning opportunities to improve their geography teaching practice. We provide the organizational structure needed to advance research in geography education. We publish journals, the National Geography Standards, and a variety of materials for diffusing research and best practices on geography education. We recognize exceptional educators and supporters in geography education. We lead and support a variety of educational and creative programs to support our members and advance global literacy. **Learn more at [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org)**

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**

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