



## Dissertation of the Year Award 2015

The purpose of this award is to recognize a completed dissertation that demonstrates scholarly excellence and makes a substantial contribution to knowledge in the general field of student affairs / student services. It may be in any scholarly tradition or methodology and focus on any topic in the field.

### Eligibility

1. The doctoral dissertation must have been accepted by the nominee's institution between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.
2. A dissertation may be nominated only one time.
3. The nominee must be a member of ACPA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award.

### Award

1. One recipient will be selected annually. Additional nominees may be cited for excellence.
2. The recipient will receive a plaque, complimentary tickets to the ACPA awards ceremony, and a cash award of \$2500.
3. The recipient will have a reserved slot to present the dissertation results in a session at the annual convention.

### Selection Process

The nominator must be the student's dissertation chair or member of the dissertation committee. The nomination package submitted for consideration requires input from both the nominee and the nominator. This pair should submit one package with the following materials. The package should be sent electronically to the selection committee chair.

1. The submission form, once completed, represents that both the nominator/nominee approve the content.
2. The nominator must submit a letter describing: (a) extraordinary features of the dissertation and (b) how the dissertation contributes to knowledge in the field of student affairs / student services.

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 300  
at the National Center for Higher Education  
Washington, DC 20036-1188

tel: 202.835.2272  
fax: 202.296.3286  
[www.myacpa.org](http://www.myacpa.org)

3. The nominee must submit a 15 double-spaced page abstract of the dissertation (inclusive of any tables and/or figures). The abstract should include the following: (1) full dissertation title; (2) statement of the study's purpose; (3) research questions, if applicable; (4) significance of the study; (5) theoretical or conceptual underpinnings, if applicable; (6) methods – research design/approach, sampling, data collection procedures or data sources used, and data analysis; (7) summary of key findings; and (8) implications for practice, policy, and/or future research. *The abstract should contain no identifying information that reveals the author, committee members, or institution.* Additionally, up to three single-spaced pages of references in APA format can accompany the abstract and will not be included in the 15-page limit.
4. The selection process is masked. That is, the nominee and the dissertation committee members' identities are masked from the reviewers. Committee chairs will ensure that dissertations from the reviewers' institutions do not review nominees' materials. Committee members will recuse themselves if they are acquainted with the nominee, committee members, or the dissertation.
5. The recipient will be selected no later than December 15 in the year prior to convention. Decisions of the committee are final.

*The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2014.*  
*Nomination Packets need to be sent electronically to:*  
*Dr. Diane Cooper*  
*dlcooper@uga.edu*