



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2015

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Joe Prus Named NASP 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Bethesda, MD—The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has named Joe Prus, PhD, NCSP as 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. NASP established the award in 1999 to recognize those who have contributed to the profession of school psychology in a significant and lasting manner. Dr. Prus is the 16th recipient of this award.

Dr. Prus currently serves as director of the School Psychology Program and chair of the Department of Psychology at Winthrop University. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Master of Arts in Educational and Counseling Psychology, and Doctorate in School Psychology at the University of Kentucky.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Prus has played an extremely important role in developing and promoting the profession of school psychology. Through his service on NASP's Graduate Education Workgroup and the NASP Program Accreditation Board, he has been instrumental in fostering and implementing standards for the graduate preparation, professional training and practice, and credentialing of school psychologists. These standards have shaped the current and future direction of the profession. As NASP President Stephen E. Brock stated, "Dr. Prus represents the true essence of this award. In fact, I think it is safe to say that almost no one has helped shape the quality of training of school psychologists, and as a result, the quality of the profession, more than Dr. Prus."

At both the state and national levels, Dr. Prus has served as a leader and advocate for the profession of school psychology in both psychological and educational associations. His service to NASP spans 25 years and includes roles on committees, task forces, and workgroups at all levels. One colleague said of his involvement that "He brings passion, deep-rooted historical knowledge of the organization, and commitment to continuously improving upon best practices and policies ... His role and contributions to NASP and the field are both invaluable and irreplaceable." He also has been a

long-time member of and has twice chaired the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Girls Home, a nonprofit in Rock Hill, SC.

Dr. Prus also has directly shaped the careers of hundreds of school psychologists both as a mentor and trainer at Winthrop University and by sharing his expertise through numerous presentations at the national and international levels, as well as at local, state, and regional meetings. He served as a consultant for over 30 years to various schools, universities, educational and mental health agencies and professionals, research corporations, and publishing companies. He has contributed substantially to the research base and disseminated this knowledge through dozens of publications.

Among his many other accolades, Dr. Prus has been recognized with awards from Winthrop University, the Trainers in School Psychology, the South Carolina Association of School Psychologists, and has received the NASP Presidential Award for Exceptional Service to Children and NASP six times.

Known throughout the field for his tireless efforts to enrich school psychology and the well-being of children and their families, Dr. Prus's impact on his students, colleagues, and the profession as a whole has been prodigious, outstanding, and enduring. As one colleague put it, "Generations of school psychologists, nationally and from around the world, have benefited from Joe's leadership activities to promote school psychology to be the best it can be. School psychology would not be the same without the wonderful contributions of Joe Prus, and his work will continue to ensure school psychologists' future as essential professionals in schools."

NASP represents 25,000 school psychologists throughout the United States and abroad. NASP empowers school psychologists by advancing effective practices to improve students' learning, behavior, and mental health. Further information about school psychology, NASP, and our Lifetime Achievement Award is available at www.nasponline.org.

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