



## NCPG Announces 2017 Awards Winners

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Portland, OR -- The National Council on Problem Gambling congratulates the 2017 Awards winners. The awards were presented Friday, July 21 at the 31<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Problem Gambling. NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte stated: "I am pleased to recognize the outstanding work of all the nominees and especially the recipients. In particular I have been fortunate enough to work alongside all three Lifetime Award winners and appreciate their considerable positive impacts on the problem gambling and responsible gaming fields through their advocacy, research and treatment." The 2017 Awards categories and recipients are:

- **Monsignor Joseph Dunne Lifetime Award for Advocacy:** Don Feeney. An advisor to the Governor of Minnesota, Don began working for the Minnesota State Lottery and rose to Director of Research and Planning and became the leading lottery advocate for responsible gaming. He served on the NCPG Board of Directors for 13 years, including as President. Through his calm, measured approach was able to literally move an entire industry forward.
- **Dr. Robert Custer Lifetime Award for Service:** Dr. Linda Graves. For more than 20 years Linda has been an outstanding professional, instructor and leader in three different states, overseeing the implementation of treatment, prevention and training systems.
- **Lifetime Research Award:** Dr. Jeff Derevensky, McGill University. A pioneer in youth gambling research, Jeff founded the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High Risk Behaviors at McGill University. He is well-known around the world and co-founded the McGill/NCPG annual Lottery Holiday Responsible Gaming Campaign to discourage parents from giving lottery tickets to their children as gifts. A record 57 lotteries from around the world participated in the 2016 campaign.
- **Joanna Franklin Annual Award for Direct Service:** Michael Rosen, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. Michael's commitment to giving back and helping others led him to become the oldest-ever graduate of the University of Maryland School of Social Work in order to become a certified gambling counselor. He was also instrumental in getting the first-ever Gamblers Anonymous meeting started in a Maryland correctional facility.
- **Don Hulen Annual Award for Advocacy:** Dr. Deborah Haskins, Maryland Council on Problem Gambling. Since 1998 Dr. Haskins has been a tireless advocate, a compassionate family centered counselor and a multicultural trainer and expert in understanding how gambling uniquely impacts African-American communities.
- **Jim Wuelfing Annual Award for Prevention:** Dr. Josephine Wilson, Wright State University for her prevention curriculum for at-risk youth.
- **Public Awareness Award (Non-Profit):** Ohio for Responsible Gambling
- **Public Awareness Award (Corporate):** Connecticut Lottery Corporation

- Website Award (Non-Profit): Ohio for Responsible Gambling
- Website Award (Corporate): Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Multi-Cultural Communications Award (Corporate): Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Newsletter Award (Corporate): Connecticut Lottery Corporation for Chatter That Matters, their newsletter that raised awareness of problem gambling issues.
- Corporate Social Responsibility Award: New Jersey Lottery
- Holiday Responsible Gaming Campaign Award: Oregon Lottery
- Media Award: Problem Gamblers Help Network of West Virginia, for software allowing for targeted ads when entering or leaving casino areas.
- People’s Choice Award (Corporate): First Choice Health Systems for “His Dad”
- People’s Choice Award (Affiliate): California Council on Problem Gambling and Betting On Our Future – High Tech Middle School, Chula Vista, CA
- Excellence in Prevention Award: Mina Hazar & Adela Colhon for the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness
- Best in Prevention Showcase Award: Dr. Jim Kooler, Betting On Our Future

NCPG is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gaming.

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