Finesha Colton-Lee, Emory University, Wins National Association of Educational Procurement’s Young Professional Award

May 9, 2013—The National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP), the nationwide organization focused exclusively on procurement in higher education, has announced the winners of its Annual Recognition Awards for the year 2012. The Young Professional in Procurement Award, recognizing young professionals who have made contributions to the education procurement industry, was presented to Finesha Colton-Lee, CPSM, Commodity Manager Scientific, Emory University. The awards were presented at a ceremony held at the Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida in April.

The Association’s highest honor, the Bert C. Ahrens Achievement Award, for outstanding contributions to the procurement profession over an extended period of time, was given to Sandy Hicks, CPPB, Assistant Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer, University of Colorado.

The Distinguished Service Award for extraordinary service to NAEP and the purchasing profession went to three Members: Karin B. Coopersmith, LEED AP BD+C, Assistant Director of Purchasing, Indiana University, Linda Fast, APO, CPPO, CPPB, Manager of Procurement Services, University of Arkansas, and Karen Gross, C.P.M., CPPB, CTPM, University of Texas Medical Branch.

The Bob Ashby Mentor of the Year Award was presented to Nancy S. Brooks, MPA, Director of Purchasing, Iowa State University.

The Neil D. Markee Communicator of the Year Award went to Wendy L. Burchard, Strategic Sourcing Manager, University of Richmond.

The Young Professional in Procurement Award was also presented to Jason Laubach, Assistant Controller, Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The Nancy Tregoe Scholarship, in memory of a former NAEP president, went to Denise K. Finn, CPPO, C.P.M., CPPB, Associate Director, Purchasing Division, University of Kentucky, for her contributions to NAEP and its buying cooperative, E&I Cooperative Services.
An honor reserved for institutions, the Award of Excellence in Procurement, was given to the University of Maine System, Kevin T. Carr, C.P.M., Director of Strategic Procurement.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Elizabeth M. Lees, Director of Purchasing, Muhlenberg College.

The Professional Perspective Award, for best article in NAEP’s *Journal of Educational Procurement*, went to Ken Baushke, C.P.M. Purchasing/Accounts Payable, Western Kentucky University.

**National Association of Educational Procurement**

Founded in 1921, the National Association of Educational Procurement is based in Baltimore, Maryland on the campus of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. More than 4000 procurement professionals representing 1500 of our country’s most respected educational institutions are actively engaged in the association. Dedicated to professional development, community development and collaborative development, NAEP has on-staff resources and an active peer network easily available to all members to aid in the modeling of cutting-edge, cost-effective, socially responsible procurement practices and programs. NAEP delivers continuing professional development in face-to-face venues, webcasts and at its flagship event, NAEP’s Annual Meeting and Exposition, held every spring. More information on NAEP may be found at [www.naepnet.org](http://www.naepnet.org)

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