



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASPA Establishes the Cynthia A. Davenport Award
Namesake Receives Inaugural Award

Chicago, IL – The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), is pleased to announce the establishment of the Cynthia A. Davenport Award as the highest award presented to a member of ASPA or Friend of ASPA for superior effort on behalf of specialized and professional accreditors. The inaugural Award was presented to its namesake on September 12, 2010 in recognition of her 16 years of exceptional service as the founding Executive Director of the ASPA.

The Cynthia A. Davenport Award will honor the contribution of an individual above and beyond the call of duty in providing contributions on issues related to the importance of accreditation to the quality of higher education in the US, and the importance of specialized and professional accreditation to a variety of disciplines and professions. Given the nature of this award, it will be given only in those circumstances where a unique or longer-term contribution has been made.

Ms. Davenport was intricately involved in founding the organization, and served on its inaugural Board of Directors. She was hired as Executive Director in 1995 and has worked diligently to develop a membership organization that provides a strong, cohesive national voice on specialized and professional accreditation issues. Under her leadership, the ASPA membership has grown from 40 to over 60 accrediting organizations.

“Cynthia Davenport helped develop the ASPA Principles,” says Peter H. Vlasses, PharmD, DSc (Hon), Chairman of the Board for ASPA, “and has been a staunch advocate in having others, inside and outside the organization, understand the national-level importance of upholding these principles. ASPA members will be forever appreciative of her many and varied accomplishments on our behalf.”

According to Cynthia Davenport, MA, MLS, ASPA Executive Director, “I am honored to have had the opportunity to build an organization which is viewed as a significant resource for

information, support, and encouragement not only for our members but also for others. I am most proud that our efforts have always been focused on the greater good, and that the organization is poised to flourish under the new leadership of Joseph Vibert.”

About The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

ASPA, a 501(c)(3) association, represents U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA focuses on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. ASPA-member accreditors set national educational standards for entry into 61 specialized disciplines or defined professions to ensure that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines.

***Enhancing quality in higher education through
specialized and professional accreditation***

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