



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Contact: Shane Boyle
NAEP
443.543.5540
sboyle@naepnet.org

University of Maine System Wins NAEP Excellence in Procurement Award

May 17, 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 Award for Excellence in Procurement, an honor reserved for institutions, was given to the University of Maine System, represented by Kevin T. Carr, C.P.M., Director of Strategic Procurement. The awards were presented at a ceremony held at the Association's 92nd Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida in April.

The Excellence in Procurement Award is given on the basis of a procurement department's contribution to, and support of, the mission of their institution. Nominations are evaluated on the scope and complexity of specific endeavors, technological leadership, benefit to the institution and key constituents, and demonstration of excellence and professionalism. The endeavor, product, or service must be innovative and provide significant advantage to the institution, faculty, staff, and/or students.

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

The Bob Ashby Mentor of the Year Award went 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, recognizing young professionals who have made contributions to the education procurement industry, was presented to two Members:

Jason Laubach, Assistant Controller, Northampton Community College, and Finesha Colton-Lee, CPSM, Commodity Manager Scientific, Emory University.

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.

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 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

###