

**UNC Board of Governors
2014 Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Award for Excellence in Public Service
October 24, 2014**

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Chairman Fennebresque reported that in 2007, the Board of Governors established the Award for Excellence in Public Service to encourage, identify, recognize, and reward public service and outreach by faculty of the University. This marked the eighth year of the award. Last year, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to rename the Public Service Award after our late Governor and former Board member, Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Chairman Fennebresque called on Mr. Harrelson, Chair of this year's award committee, for the announcement of this year's award recipient.

Mr. Harrelson reported that he had served with Mr. Hood, Mrs. MacNeill, and Mr. Souza. After careful consideration of many qualified nominees, the Board of Governors chose Dr. Kurt D. Michael, Professor of Psychology from Appalachian State University and Principle Investigator of the Assessment, Support, and Counseling Center (ASC) and University-School Partnerships, as this year's recipient of the 2014 James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service. Mr. Harrelson recognized several of Dr. Michael's guests, including his, wife, children, and colleagues. Mr. Harrelson recognized Chancellor Everts for her outstanding leadership.

The impact that Dr. Michaels' work has had in the communities is profound. His professional work in these communities has garnered significant positive attention and policy support in North Carolina, contributing to large federal grants to the state on rural mental health promotion. His collaborative efforts have enabled North Carolina to be at the forefront of school mental health endeavors. He and his colleagues have found pathways that give youth, student and families struggling with behavioral health challenges the message of hope, to know that it's okay to ask for help, to know that treatment is available, to know that treatment is effective, and to know that recovery is possible and expected.

Following a video presentation highlighting Dr. Michael's accomplishments and achievements, Mr. Harrelson called on President Ross, who presented Dr. Michael with a stipend and an engraved bronze medallion. President Ross expressed his deep appreciation to

Dr. Michael and stated that the University was proud to have him as a distinguished member of the faculty. He invited Dr. Michael to make brief remarks.

Dr. Michael thanked the members of the Board of Governors and expressed how honored he was to be the recipient of an award named after one of North Carolina's favorite public servants. He spoke about mental health challenges in the schools, the initiatives that he and his team have undertaken, and hope for the future. "Seeing the initiatives grow and gain traction has been an amazing process. The obvious joys are witnessing kids and families beat some of the burdens including depression, substance abuse, and suicidal thinking. It's also impressive to witness folks, who have stigmatized assumptions about the value of mental health treatment, become fully engaged participants in their own success. Also gratifying is how I get to see young emerging professionals engage in the school mental health endeavor with passion and purpose and who often go on to develop their own meaningful careers. I do have a regret – that is that we can only hang on to the talent we grow for a short time before they leave us to attend PhD programs outside of North Carolina. States such as Texas, South Carolina, Oregon, Wyoming, Ohio, etc. now have many of Appalachian State University's best and brightest. We are always looking for opportunities to train and retain these exceptional graduates. For example, we often hire our graduates with state and federal state mental health grants. We have retained two recent graduates through a Title V grant through NC Department of Public Instruction. Other possibilities include growing the ASC Center to include doctoral level interns and we are motivated to develop a PhD program in rural clinical psychology. In any case, North Carolina needs to train and retain these exceptional psychologists in hopes of alleviating the substantial mental health burdens that continue to bedevil our beloved citizens, especially our children. In closing, please know how blessed I feel to have received this award. I am glad that you have elected me to shine a bright light on the passion many of us share in the mountains and at Appalachian State University to directly address major public health issues that impact our rural families."