



National Council *on* Problem Gambling

Media Advisory

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The Year's Best in the Problem Gambling Field

Indianapolis, IN The National Council on Problem Gambling will recognize the 2009 award winners at the 23rd National Conference on Problem Gambling in Indianapolis, IN on Friday, June 26. The Dr. Robert Custer Award for Direct Service will be presented to Dr. Chuck Maurer, Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling. Dr. Maurer is a licensed and board certified clinical psychologist and certified gambling counselor who has worked with problem gamblers and their families since 1979. He has also been a mentor to those seeking to follow in his footsteps, serving as an outside clinical supervisor for predoctoral clinical psychology students, prelicensure psychologists, and gambling counselor applicants. Chuck was invited to work with gamblers by Dr. Custer himself, making this nomination particularly appropriate. The Custer Award is given to honor a person for exceptional long-standing achievement in the direct provision of services to problem gamblers and their families. The Custer Award for Service is only bestowed in exceptional times and circumstances, to individuals who exemplify at least twenty years of service on behalf of problem gamblers.

Mike Ryan of Purcellville, VA is the inaugural recipient of the annual Advocacy Award, given annually to recognize dedication to improving the lives of problem gamblers and their families through advocacy, training, or the promotion of public awareness. Mr. Ryan has been an integral part of NCPG's Congressional advocacy efforts over the past year, leading to the recent introduction of the Comprehensive Problem Gambling Act, the first-ever Federal support for problem gambling prevention and treatment.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania nominated Sands Casino Bethlehem for the Corporate Social Responsibility Award for their demonstrated outstanding commitment to social responsibility. Sands facilitated CCGPA's counselor training efforts beginning prior to the opening of the property.

Public Awareness Award, for the outstanding TV or radio public awareness message in the past year was given to Gear Up With Music, a prevention program created by and for at-risk teens in Washington State. Gear Up was nominated by the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling.

The Research Award goes to Dr. Mark Griffiths, International Gambling Research Unit, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom, for his impressive body of research published in 2008 that has contributed substantially to the understanding of this disorder.

Renee St-Pierre, McGill University, received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award. Retailer Compliance with Youth Access Statutes and Regulatory Policies for Lottery

Products and Alcohol: Evaluating the Role of Gender and Vendor Age was judged by the Research committee to merit special recognition.

The Outstanding Dissertation Award went to Dr. Ryan Martin, Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling. The Research Committee praised his manuscript, An Examination of Gambling Behavior Among College Students Using the Theory of Planned Behavior, an interesting, fairly sophisticated and well-written dissertation.

In addition the People's Choice Award will be presented, given annually to the most popular public awareness message as voted on by the attendees at the conference, the oldest and largest problem gambling conference in the world.

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