



July 5, 2016

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NCPG Salutes Leaders in Problem Gambling & Responsible Gaming Fields with 2016 Awards

Two Lifetime Achievement Awards, ESPN's "Outside the Lines" Recognized

Washington, DC -- The National Council on Problem Gambling will present its 2016 Awards at the 30th National Conference on Problem Gambling in Tarrytown, NY on Friday, July 15. As New York State and communities across the country grapple with the growing impact of online fantasy sports and other forms of gambling, the conference provides cutting edge information on prevention, treatment and responsible gaming, as well as extensive networking opportunities to help all stakeholders work toward solutions to minimize harm.

The 2016 Awards include:

The Lifetime Research Award, presented to Dr. Marc Potenza, Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neuroscience at Yale University, and Director of the Problem Gambling Clinic, the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, the Program for Research on Impulsivity and Impulse Control Disorders, and the Women and Addictive Disorders Core of Women's Health Research at Yale. Dr. Potenza is also a Senior Scientist with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse in New York. For more than 20 years, his dedication and commitment has resulted in great strides through applied brain imaging, genetic, epidemiological and clinical trials methodologies to gain knowledge and improve prevention and treatment strategies for addictive disorders. "My research focuses on how non-substance ("behavioral") addictions are similar to and different from substance addictions," Dr. Potenza said. "We are also interested how individual differences related to impulsivity and gender, for example, influence non-substance and substance addictions."

Elizabeth "Lisa" Pertzoff, a nationally certified addictions counselor in alcoholism, drug abuse and compulsive gambling, will receive the Monsignor Joseph Dunne Lifetime Award for Advocacy. Pertzoff retired last year after serving as Executive Director of the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems for 30 years. Her impactful career in the addictions field also included service on the Governor's Advisory Council for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the board of directors of the Delaware Council on Alcoholism, the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, The National Council on Problem Gambling, and the Addictions Coalition of Delaware, of which she was a co-founder. "It's a privilege to recognize Lisa's leadership at the local, state and national level, and her 30+ years of selfless service with this award," said NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte.

The Communications Award for Media goes to ESPN's Outside the Lines program, for its expose on former Cincinnati Reds baseball player and manager Pete Rose. On June 22, 2015, ESPN concluded an investigation and determined that Rose bet on baseball while still a player, from 1984 to 1986. This was in addition to his admitted history of gambling as a manager, which forced Rose out of baseball, permanently excluded him from the Hall of Fame, and ended his career hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt due to gambling.

Other 2016 Award Winners Include:

Communications – Holiday Campaign: British Columbia Lottery Corporation

Communications - Multi-Cultural: Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling, The Puyallup Tribe of Indians and Puyallup School District

Communications - Newsletter: Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling

Communications - Public Awareness: Be the 95% Campaign/Ohio for Responsible Gambling

Communications - Social Media: Be the 95% Campaign/Ohio for Responsible Gambling

Communications – Website: Be the 95% Campaign/Ohio for Responsible Gambling

Don Hulen Annual Award for Advocacy: Alice Garland, Chair, North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries and Executive Director of the North Carolina Education Lottery

Corporate Social Responsibility Annual Award: Oregon Lottery

Joanna Franklin Annual Award for Direct Service: Morneau Shepell

Jim Wuelfing Annual Award for Prevention: Rodney Anderson, California Office of Problem Gambling

Durand Jacobs Dissertation Award: Dr. Renee St-Pierre, McGill University: Negative Anticipated Emotions and the Theory of Planned Behaviour in Adolescent Gambling Behaviours and Problem Gambling Prevention

Annual Research Award: Temcheff, Paskus, Potenza, Derevensky "Which Diagnostic Criteria are Most Useful in Discriminating Between Social Gamblers and Individuals with Gambling Problems? An Examination of DSM-IV and DSM-5 Criteria"

NCPG is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. For more information on the 30th National Conference on Problem Gambling, visit the website here.

NCPG is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and leads state and national stakeholders in the development of comprehensive policy and programs for all those affected by problem gambling. Our vision is to improve health and wellness by reducing the personal, social and economic costs of problem gambling.

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