

## **Two NCSAAM Leaders Recognized for Excellence**

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**For Immediate Release**

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Two highly-distinguished North Carolina Society of Acupuncture and Asian Medicine (NCSAAM) leaders have been recognized for their ongoing service to the organization during a ceremony that took place at the organization's annual May meeting.

Heather McIver, LAc, has been awarded the 2018 Exceptional Educator Award in recognition of her outstanding education to the acupuncture profession as well as her contribution toward the education of acupuncturists. McIver has also been recognized for her public education outreach and her wellbeing of the community at large.

She was further cited for her involvement with both the North Carolina population as well as with national events. McIver, who also serves as NCSAAM Education Officer, was instrumental in coordinating the annual event, which included international speaker Dr. Suzanne Robidoux.

This year's recipient of the NCSAAM Distinguished Service Award—which is the highest award provided by the organization--was Chris Helmstetter, Lac, who was cited for providing outstanding service to the acupuncture profession through research, publication and/or advocacy on a local and national level. He was recognized for his visionary leadership and community service.

Individuals, or in special cases a small group, are selected on the basis of the value and degree of their overall service, including activities on behalf of the association.

Helmstetter has served his constituency by working with the NCSAAM's lobbying firm, guiding its legislative task force, and meeting with key policymakers, thereby educating them on the benefits of acupuncture. Additionally he is a potential candidate on a major research project with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focusing on the opioid issue and the benefits of acupuncture as they apply to the treatment of addiction.