

# NAADAC Honors 2017 National Award Winners

*As part of its National Addiction Professionals Day celebration, NAADAC honored its 2017 National Award Winners. This year, NAADAC presented awards to four outstanding individuals and one organization for their extraordinary service and contributions to the addiction profession.*



**Lora Roe Memorial Addiction Counselor of the Year: Cherylene Tucker, MA, MAC, LCDC, ADC**

*This award, renamed for Lora Roe in 1988, is presented to a counselor who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of addiction counseling.*

This year's recipient of the Lora Roe Memorial Addiction Counselor of the Year Award, Cherylene Tucker, is a passionate, highly skilled and empathetic community leader with 30 years of experience as an addiction counselor. She specializes in cognitive treatment for substance use disorder, program development, and coaching, and has worked tirelessly to provide treatment and support to individuals in the criminal justice system with substance use disorder.



**Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year: Leigh Kolodny-Kraft, LCADC, CSAT, CCTP, SAP, CCGC, ICADC**

*This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to the advancement of the addiction counseling profession.*

Leigh Kolodny-Kraft, recipient of the Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year award, is a compassionate, dedicated, and gifted therapist with unwavering ethics who inspires hope and motivation in her clients. With over a decade of experience, she exudes the utmost professionalism and creativity, utilizing multiple modalities of treatment rather than a one size fits all approach. She specializes in individual, couples and family therapy with a focus on addictions and codependency.



**Lifetime Honorary Membership Award: Larry Ashley, EdS, LCADC, CPGC**

*The Lifetime Honorary Membership Award recognizes an individual who has established outstanding service through a lifetime of consistent contributions to the advancement of NAADAC, the addiction profession and its professionals.*

This year's recipient of the Lifetime Honorary Membership Award is Larry Ashley, a leading international authority on the relationship between addiction and combat trauma. He has been a leader in the substance use disorder field for over 40 years as a researcher, therapist, university professor and advocate for those suffering from addiction and trauma. He has been invited to consult with the United States military in Germany and at a Medical Teaching Center in Vietnam, and he has testified before the British House of Commons and the United States Congress. His valuable contribution to the field, particularly by military personnel with substance use disorder, is respected and honored by this award.



**Addiction Educator of the Year: John D. Massella, EdD, LPC, CAADC, NBCC, CCS-PCB, CCPG**

*The Addiction Educator of the Year Award is presented to the educator who has made an outstanding contribution to addiction education.*

John D. Massella is this year's recipient of the Addiction Educator of the Year Award. With over 30 years of experience, he has acted as a professor, clinician, advocate, therapist, and clinical supervisor, and lifelong mentor. He is currently a faculty member at the California University of Pennsylvania, where he is acclaimed by student and peers for teaching by example with thoughtful humor and unabated passion.



**Emerging Leaders Award: Metropolitan State University Alcohol and Drug Counseling Student Association**

*Recipients have demonstrated innovative thinking, a commitment to the advancement of the public's understanding of addiction, exemplary leadership qualities and a significant impact on the local, state or national community.*

Minnesota's Metropolitan State University Alcohol and Drug Counseling Student Association (ADCSA) received NAADAC's 2017 Emerging Leaders Award for its significant impact on its community, innovative thinking, commitment to the advancement of the public's understanding of addiction, and exemplary leadership. This vibrant program serves addiction counseling students at all levels through the work of enthusiastic students and advisors and has engaged in advocacy work at the campus, state, and national levels. It provides a peer support environment focusing on good communication and empowerment, enhances students' educational experiences to help promote the addiction profession, provides leadership and community service opportunities, and recruits and supports students from under-represented backgrounds. Over the past several years, ADCSA has co-sponsored on-campus Recovery Advocacy Seminars and held naloxone trainings on campus. In addition, its members have participated in state public policy briefings and visited their state legislators to support such efforts as "Good Samaritan" protection, naloxone availability, funding for recovery schools and the recent Department of Human Services effort to reform the substance use disorders service delivery system.