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**National Scholarship Providers Association
Announces 2015 Scholarship Providers of the Year**

- George Snow Scholarship Fund, Northern Illinois University receive this year's honors -

BOULDER, CO. (October 27, 2015) – The [National Scholarship Providers Association \(NSPA\)](#) awarded 2015 Scholarship Provider of the Year (SPOY) Awards in two categories, recognizing outstanding scholarship practices in higher education. This year's recipients, George Snow Scholarship Fund in the Independent Scholarship Providers category and Northern Illinois University in the Colleges and Universities category, were recognized at the NSPA Annual Conference in Charleston, SC.

"Scholarship Provider of the Year Award winners are chosen by a committee of their peers and exemplify innovative and effective scholarship practices that have positively impacted the ability of their scholars to access and be successful in higher education," commented Amy Weinstein, Executive Director of the NSPA. "NSPA members work to design their scholarship programs and student support services in strategic ways. This year's winners have proven their programs to be exceptional at helping students achieve their educational goals."

Two scholarship providers selected for the annual honor receive a \$2500 cash prize sponsored by [Fastweb](#), the nation's recognized leader in helping students pay for school and a top site in the [Monster Worldwide](#) network. Organizations must be current members of NSPA to be considered for the award.

Weinstein said, "These prestigious awards have been supported by Fastweb.com for 16 years, and the NSPA is grateful for their contributions to quality scholarship programming."

The George Snow Scholarship Fund honors George Snow, a man who always remembered the importance of education and during his lifetime was active in trying to help individuals who were trying to help themselves. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded over \$6 million in educational grants. In the year 2013 alone, the Scholarship Fund awarded over \$580,000 in commitments to 73 students. This level of support places the Fund as one of Palm Beach County's largest sources of educational grants. The Fund aims to grant at least one award to each public high school in Palm Beach County.

Northern Illinois University has many merit, talent, need, and service based scholarship programs and has decentralized units that are responsible for scholarship administration of each program. One specific program called "Huskie Service Scholars" is run out of the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning. Huskie Service Scholars (HSS) is a program that strives to develop a peer network and provide support that enables first year students to engage in service work on campus and in the community. The program aims to provide support to first generation or low income students through mentoring, training, and funding. A total of 24 students are assigned to one of six internal NIU offices in teams of four, consisting of one Peer Mentor and three incoming first generation or low income students. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, each student completes 300 hours of community service to NIU and the wider community based on the interests and needs of their campus partner office.

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About the National Scholarship Providers Association

The National Scholarship Providers Association ([NSPA](#)) is a non-profit membership association that brings together private foundations, public charities, colleges and universities, corporate giving programs, and government agencies from across North America that provide scholarships for higher education. Its mission is to advance the collective impact of scholarship providers and the scholarships they award. The NSPA supports its 370 member organizations through professional development opportunities, industry best practices and research, issue education and policy advocacy. In the 2013-2014 academic year, NSPA members awarded over \$1.1 billion in scholarships to more than 180,000 students. For additional information about the NSPA visit www.scholarshipproviders.org and follow on Twitter @NSPA_Tweets.

About Fastweb

Fastweb, a top site in the Monster Worldwide (NYSE:MWW) network, is the nation's recognized leader in helping students pay for school, by providing scholarship and financial aid information, as well as information on jobs and internships. One out of three college-bound seniors use the site, and more than 50 million users have benefitted from Fastweb's information and services. Fastweb lets students create personalized profiles that can be matched against its expansive databases of colleges and scholarships. As the oldest and most popular free online scholarship matching service, the database has more than 1.5 million scholarships totaling over \$3.4 billion. To learn more about Fastweb, visit www.fastweb.com and follow Fastweb on social media for the latest on paying for school all year long: [Twitter](#) ([@PayingForSchool](#)); [Facebook](#); [Pinterest](#); [Google+](#).