AAACE confers several categories of awards to recognize and honor exemplary contributions to adult and continuing education. The awards are a highly visible component of the association's statement about standards of excellence in the field. The AAACE awards process is under the leadership of the National Awards Committee.

Guiding Principles:
The AAACE awards process is based on:
- Having a limited, select number of association-wide awards to truly honor and recognize outstanding contributions to the field.
- Honoring leadership, service, knowledge, learners and practice in the field.
- Recognizing both individual and team or collective efforts.
- Open communication about the awards, the selection criteria, and process for each award.

2016 Presidential Award for Exceptional and Innovative Leadership in Adult and Continuing Education

Dr. Viktor Wang

In every field there are those who surpass their peers both in terms of their vision of the future and their ability to mobilize others in shaping that future. Leaders demonstrate a clear vision of what should be and a well-thought out strategy to achieve that vision.

Leaders demonstrate their effectiveness by the results they achieve and by influencing outcomes by gaining the willing cooperation of colleagues/contemporaries in pursuing commonly held goals and objectives. This award is presented to a person from education, government, industry or other sectors who demonstrate exceptional and innovative leadership to or in support of adult and continuing education.

This year’s Presidential Award recipient is Dr. Viktor Wang. Dr. Wang is a professor of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology. Thus far, Dr. Wang has published more than 240 refereed books, book chapters, and journal articles. These publications address andragogy and pedagogy, which can be considered as the umbrella under which such areas as andragogical curriculum and program development, management, human performance technology, social justice, global education, diversity and E-learning are addressed.

Currently, Dr. Wang is co-editing the International Journal of Adult Vocational Education and Technology with a Columbia University Professor, Dr. Lyle Yorks and a doctoral student of Malcolm Knowles, Dr. John A. Henschke. Dr. Wang has won many academic achievement awards, including the Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award. He has had extensive experience in chairing and mentoring doctoral dissertations (including dissertations from University of Auckland, New Zealand). Some of his books have been adopted as required textbooks by major universities in the United States and in China. In addition, numerous universities worldwide including some Ivy League Universities have cataloged his books and journal articles. Dr. Wang’s teaching (including teaching via technology) has reached many states in the United States and China.
2016 Presidential Award
For Exceptional and Innovative Leadership
In Adult and Continuing Education

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