



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2018

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**Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail and Dr. Suanne Davis Roueche (posthumously) to receive the
2018 Diverse Champions Award**

FAIRFAX, Va. — *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* is pleased to announce that **Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail** and **Dr. Suanne Davis Roueche** (posthumously) will be co-recipients of this year's *Diverse Champions Award*.

McPhail, founder of the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at Morgan State University (MD), is a professor emerita of higher education and former president and chief instructional officer at Cypress College. As a higher education consultant in The McPhail Group, she currently serves as a leadership coach for two-year and four-year institutions in eight different states. A prolific author and researcher, McPhail sits on numerous boards and has been nationally recognized for her stellar leadership ability. She has made an indelible impact on teaching and learning in the U.S.

Roueche. The late Dr. Suanne Davis Roueche has been described as one of the five most influential women in the development of community colleges in the last 25 years. Her diligent scholarship, designed to strengthen the nation's community colleges for the benefit of those they serve, has been lauded for decades by peers and leaders across numerous higher education systems. Her devotion to leadership development for community colleges and her passion for teaching and learning translated to over 450 visits to colleges, universities and conferences as an expert lecturer. Authoring and co-authoring 19 books and more than 60 articles and chapters, Roueche served for more than 20 years as the director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at the University of Texas, prior to her retirement in 2012. Roueche will be remembered as an unmatched champion for the community college in the U.S. — offering perceptive, best practices and unparalleled insight.

[About this Award:](#)

The *Diverse Champions Award* recognizes higher education leaders who have shown unwavering commitment to equal opportunity and access for all, particularly at the community college level.

The award was created by *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* in 2012 upon the retirement of the inaugural *Diverse Champions Award* winner, Dr. John E. Roueche, as director of the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) at the University of Texas at Austin. Of the more than 500 CCLP graduates produced during his 40-plus year tenure at CCLP, more than 60 percent are women and people of color.

The *Diverse Champions Award* is given to individuals who have made similarly extraordinary contributions to the world of higher education.

The 2017 recipient of the award was Dr. Kay McClenney, higher education consultant and founding director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin from 2001 through April 2014.

This year's award will be presented during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) annual meeting, April 28 – May 1, 2018 in Dallas, Texas.

The April 19, 2018, edition of *Diverse* will contain a tribute to Drs. McPhail and Roueche.

For more than three decades, [Diverse: Issues In Higher Education](#) has been America's premier source of timely news, provocative commentary, insightful interviews and in-depth special reports on diversity in higher education. Savvy individuals who appreciate the crucial and ever-changing role that higher education plays in the lives of students, professionals, their families and their communities make reading [Diverse](#) a regular habit.

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