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Heavener School of Business advisor honored with national award

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Erica Byrnes, the Associate Director for Academic Advising & Career Coaching at the Heavener School of Business, was awarded the Outstanding Advising Award—Academic Advising Administrator from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

Byrnes was one of only seven advisors in the entire country to be recognized in the Administrator category. “To be recognized by the NACADA with its Outstanding Advising Award is truly an honor,” Byrnes said. “It’s a privilege to work with the dedicated colleagues, talented students and supportive administration at the Heavener School of Business.”

Nominees for the award are evaluated by a number of criteria including strong interpersonal skills, evidence of student success, monitoring of student progress toward academic and career goals, mastery of institutional regulations, policies and procedures, ability to engage in, promote and support developmental advising and participation in and support of advisor development programs. The Academic Advising Administrator category also requires nominees to “provide direct academic advising services, but whose primary responsibility is as an administrator or director of an academic advising program.”

Byrnes was recognized by NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) with its Region 4 Excellence in Advising Administration award (2012) and as an Emerging Leader (2007-09). She was named the Warrington College of Business Administration’s Advisor of the Year and the University of Florida Advisor of the Year in 2012.

Byrnes is tasked with ensuring the academic advising at the Heavener School of Business is highly effective, efficient and meets the needs of students. She supervises seven academic advisors and a program assistant counseling the School of Business’ 2,500 undergraduate students on academic and professional development issues. She is also an instructor for Warrington Welcome, a course for incoming freshmen, and is a mentor for Warrington Welcome Peer Leaders.

At the Heavener School of Business, Byrnes has held the positions of Graduate Assistant and Academic Advisor before becoming the Associate Director for Academic Advising & Career Coaching in 2006. She earned a BS in Psychology and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Florida in 2002, and a Master of Arts in Education (M.A.Ed.) and Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degrees from UF in 2005.

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The Warrington College of Business Administration is one of the world’s top-rated public business programs, recognized for excellence by *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, and *Fortune*. As part of a Research 1 institution, Warrington is dedicated to a substantial research agenda, in addition to its teaching mission, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. Warrington educates future business leaders using teamwork that provides opportunities for development of leadership, interpersonal and total management skills; promoting mastery of business functional areas; and fostering the habits and attitudes that constitute a solid research and work ethic.