



**National Association for  
Sport and Physical Education**

*an association of the American Alliance for Health,  
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

**NASPE Sets the Standard**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
TO HONOR WEST VIRGINIA PROFESSOR EMERITA LINDA CARSON**

RESTON, VA, March 9, 2010 – Dr. Linda Carson, the Ware Distinguished Professor Emerita at West Virginia University who has devoted her career to promoting healthy preferences for young children and the adults who make decisions on their behalf, will receive the Margie R. Hanson Elementary Physical Education Distinguished Service Award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) during the national convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).

This honor will be recognized at the NASPE Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday, March 19, at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Other honorees that evening include the National Physical Education Teachers of the Year for Elementary, Middle and High School, the National Physical Education Administrator of the Year as well as the Athletic Director of the Year Award. The banquet is sponsored by Playworld Systems<sup>®</sup>, the leader in outdoor commercial playground equipment and the creator of ENERGI<sup>™</sup> Total Body Fitness System.

A national recognition, the Margie R. Hanson Elementary Physical Education Distinguished Service Award is given to professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of physical education for children. The award is supported through donations to the Margie R. Hanson Fund. Hanson, a dedicated AAHPERD member for 26 years, was a pioneer in promoting physical education for children through her own teaching and her advocacy and AAHPERD program support.

Dr. Carson earned her undergraduate and Masters Degrees from Slippery Rock University and her doctoral degree in Childhood Motor Development from West Virginia University. She taught in the New Jersey public schools and at Purdue University before beginning her 30-year career at West Virginia University. As the former Director of the WV Motor Development Center, Professor Carson developed innovative learning laboratories for

WVU students and award winning physical activity programs for infants, babies, toddlers, pre-school, and elementary school age children in both land-based and water-based learning environments, earning recognition for involving family members as play partners. She has written children's music and other resource materials with embedded health messages showcasing her children's character, *Choosy*.

Dr. Carson is the founder of Choosy Kids, a company that uses Choosy to promote healthy decision making and active learning. Choosy Kids recently partnered with Lakeshore Learning Materials to help early childhood educators and allied health professionals to address childhood obesity in young children. In addition, the award-winning educator has served as an expert trainer for the obesity prevention initiatives, "*I Am Moving, I Am Learning*" and "*Little Voices for Healthy Choices*," launched nationwide by the Office of Head Start. Dr Carson served on the leadership team of WV Games for Health, a series of statewide projects in WV based on the team's pioneering research that demonstrated significant changes in the health indicators of obese children as a result of playing active video games. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play, headquartered in Reston, VA.

### **NASPE**

The preeminent national authority on physical education and a recognized leader in sport and physical activity, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) is a non-profit professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport. NASPE's 15,000 members include: K-12 physical education teachers, coaches, athletic directors, athletic trainers, sport management professionals, researchers, and college/university faculty who prepare professionals in all of these areas. NASPE seeks to enhance knowledge, improve professional practice, and increase support for high-quality physical education, sport and physical activity programs. It is the largest of the five national associations that make up the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHPERD). For more information, visit [www.naspeinfo.org](http://www.naspeinfo.org).