**THOMAS HUDSPETH WINS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**

**FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD**

BURLINGTON, VT, October 22, 2016 — Thomas Hudspeth, a long-time Vermont educator in the field of environmental education, was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a leader in environmental education, as the recipient of one of NAAEE’s hallmark annual awards recognizing leadership in the field. At a special awards reception during NAAEE’s 45th Annual Conference in Madison, Wis., Hudspeth was honored with the Walter E. Jeske Award. The Jeske Award is the highest honor NAAEE bestows for contributions in environmental education and is named after Walter Jeske, former Chief of the Education and Publications unit within the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, who died suddenly in 1981.

In 1979, Hudspeth established the Environmental Program at the University of Vermont (UVM), and led the program for over 40 years until his recent retirement. UVM’s program is one of few well-recognized programs in the nation. Over the course of his career, Hudspeth’s scholarship of engagement has explored citizen participation in urban waterfront revitalization, forest management, living machines, ecotourism in Vermont, and the development of a network of bicycle paths in the region. His work in sustainability and environmental education has helped contribute to broad public engagement and awareness, qualifying the Burlington region as a coveted United Nations Regional Center of Expertise (RCE).

"For more than four decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence and impact in environmental education thanks to the determined efforts of our members, supporters, and affiliate organizations," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. “Our award winners are truly inspirational educators and organizations across North America that exemplify the best in our field, showcasing multiple disciplines, approaches, and perspectives--from classroom to community to research--all working toward a more just and sustainable society."

This year, 11 award recipients — an impressive slate of individuals and organizations from North America —were selected across 11 categories. For more information about the 2016 NAAEE Awards including eligibility requirements and a full list of winners, visit [www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards](http://www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards).

**About NAAEE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a pioneering membership organization dedicated to accelerating environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators, researchers, and organizational members working in environmental education in more than 30 countries through direct membership and 53 regional affiliate organizations. Through community networks, publications, signature programs, eeNEWS and eeJOBS, NAAEE provides programming and resources for professionals working in all areas of the field. NAAEE’s annual conference, now in its 45th year, convenes leaders from private and public sectors to advance the field of environmental education. For more information, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) and [www.naaee.org/eePRO](http://www.naaee.org/eePRO).

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