Tuesday November 19, 2013, Dr. Karin Edwards was awarded a REGIONAL award; the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean. She was chosen from a group of equally skilled and dedicated nominees from throughout the region. She is now nominated for the national award.

Dean Edwards Quote: “I am absolutely honored and most appreciative of this recognition. Region 1 of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) is replete with intellectual, extremely skilled and high functioning professionals. It is awe-inspiring to have been selected for this prestigious award.”

Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean:
This award is given to a dean who has demonstrated sustained professional service in student affairs work, high-level competency in administrative skills, innovative response in meeting students’ varied and emerging needs, effectiveness in developing junior staff members, and leadership in community and university affairs. This award recipient must also have earned stature among and support of students, faculty, and fellow administrators on his or her campus and made significant contributions to the field through publications or professional involvement.

Dr. Karin Edwards was born and raised in the South Bronx, NY where she was the youngest of 8 children. She attended NYC public schools up to the 7th grade then received a scholarship to attend Columbia Grammar and Preparatory, a private school on the west side of Manhattan. Upon graduating from high school she ventured on to Albany, NY where she began her college career at the State University of NY majoring in psychology with a minor in education. She continued at SUNY Albany to earn a Master’s degree in Educational Administration.

During her career in higher education, Dr. Edwards has worked in financial aid, admission, counseling and senior-level administration. Her leadership experience in higher education began in 1991, when she was appointed Director of the Extension Center of Orange County Community College (OCCC) in Newburgh, NY. Newburgh is an impoverished community, to such a degree that it made the most distressed cities list prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. High teen pregnancy rates, low levels of educational attainment, and a substantial number of low-income families all contributed to the problems the city faced. County government officials and college administrators looked for an educational institution that could help to reverse these downward trends. In Newburgh, she was responsible not only for the day-to-day operations of the Extension Center, but also for determining overall direction of the center.

She has 30 years of experience in higher education administration. In addition to 20 years in community college administration, she has worked at public and private four-year institutions as well. Karin earned a doctorate degree in higher education administration and leadership from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. She has served in several leadership positions during her career including 12 years as senior student affairs administrator and nine years as a senior-level administrator outside of student affairs. She currently serves as the chief student affairs officer at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut.

Karin’s published work includes: African-American male college students: We are our brothers’ keeper; Exploring the path to female presidency; The impact of technology on recruitment and retention; and The academic side of student affairs.

She is married to Raymond Edwards and has 2 adult children.