

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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TOP NSPF® INSTRUCTORS DISTINGUISHED WITH AWARDS

National Swimming Pool Foundation® recognizes 11 leading educators with 14 awards, honoring their exceptional performance and commitment to keep pools safer and open.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO/December 19, 2014 — [National Swimming Pool Foundation®](#) (NSPF®) Authorized Instructors have been honored by the non-profit for their exceptional performance this past year. Eleven instructors and organizations received 14 awards, and were spotlighted for their commitment to work together to keep pools safer, healthier and open. Those who attended the annual meeting received awards just prior to the 11th [World Aquatic Health™ Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon.

“In addition to providing exceptional quality instruction to individuals new to the field, an [NSPF Instructor](#) also needs to be a viable resource for those they have trained, as well as to those who have been in the field for many years,” explained Fontaine C. Piper, Ph.D., Chair of the NSPF Education Committee. “The individuals



honored here are among a select group who have fully embraced the mission of the National Swimming Pool Foundation by doing an exceptional job of sharing their knowledge and experiences for the betterment of patrons and the industry,” he said.

“We are honored by all instructors who teach with NSPF materials and play a critical role in elevating our field,” added NSPF CEO Thomas M. Lachocki, Ph.D. “It is through education that we prevent tragedy that results in fewer people swimming. It is through education that we provide better aquatic experiences and foster growth. Those who were recognized this year play a critical role in these ways,” stated Dr. Lachocki.

The following distinguished instructors and organizations were recognized:

Rick Deyo, Director of Training for EcoLab, Minnesota and an NSPF Instructor since 2002, was recognized as a Top Supporter of the Pool Operator Primer™ Online Course. [Pool Operator Primer](#) training can be the first step to obtaining CPO® Certification. The online course provides knowledge and training that prepares professionals for the one-day classroom CPO Certification® Fusion™ class. Mr. Deyo has been with EcoLab for 29 years and has certified more than 1,000 pool operators with the CPO® certification.

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Robert Freligh, Nationwide Aquatic Consulting, Chestertown, NY was recognized by NSPF with the award for the Most Certified Individuals Ever by an NSPF Instructor, which he has received in previous years. "We at NAC consider ourselves fortunate to be working with the NSPF, an organization that provides such great support; it is our privilege to work with the New England swimming pool community, one that is committed to doing the best job possible making sure that pools are accessible for all to enjoy the benefits of health and recreation," said Mr. Freligh. Since 1982, Mr. Freligh has been teaching and certifying pool professionals through the [Certified Pool/Spa Operator® \(CPO®\)](#) certification program. As of May 31, 2014, he has certified nearly 10,000 professionals.

Trevor Sherwood, Pool Operation Management, Brick, New Jersey accepted two awards. **The organization was recognized as NSPF Instructor Team of the Year.** This newly created award recognizes the educational efforts of the entire team of 13 instructors. **Mr. Sherwood was also recognized for having Certified the Most Individuals in the Past Year.** Pool Operation Management was founded in 1980. The organization as a whole has certified over 8,000 pool professionals with the CPO® certification program. They are eager to share their knowledge and experiences to help others in the industry.

Ruth Virginia Frederick a second year NSPF Instructor with Tropical Aquatics, Dunedin, Florida, was recognized with two awards: **Rookie of Year Two and Highest Increase in CPO® Certifications.** Tropical Aquatics has been a leading NSPF authorized instructor organization since 1989, certifying operators through the CPO® certification program.

Curtis Pingel, a new NSPF Instructor affiliated with Wilmar Corporation, received the **NSPF Instructor Rookie of the Year Award.** Mr. Pingel certified the most individuals in his first year as an instructor. He is based in Iowa and focuses on multi-family properties.

Roy Carter, Director of Inspection & Education, Champions School of Real Estate, Houston, Texas received the award, **Top Supporter of Certified Pool/Spa Inspector™ online course.** The [CPI™ course](#) is designed to provide a standardized training program for health officials and pool operators on conducting pool and spa inspections, keeping pools safer, and open. Mr. Carter has been an NSPF Instructor since 2007, and with Champions for over 25 years.

Alberta Health Services, Alberta, Canada, received two recognitions: **International NSPF Instructor Team of the Year** and **Top Supporter of the NSPF Pool Math™ Workbook award.** Alberta Health Services has 17 authorized NSPF Instructors. In the spring of 2012, Alberta Health Services did an initial launch of CPO® certification classes across Alberta in response to the Ministry of Health Government of Alberta's introduction of a new pool education framework. The Government of Alberta provided approval in 2012 of CPO® certification as one of the courses available to educate pool operators in its region. CPO® certification candidates often do better on their exam when they pre-study using the [Pool Math Workbook](#), the industry's first textbook focused solely on making swimming pool and spa calculations easier.

Jean-Pierre Lajoie, working with Distributions ASI Inc. Quebec, Canada, was recognized with an award for his dedication to pool operator training, having **Certified the Most Individuals Outside the U.S.** in the past year, **through the CPO® certification program.** Mr. Lajoie has been an NSPF Instructor since 1997.

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Jose Miguel Torres, Paraiso Pools, Deltona, Florida received his award for **Certifying the Greatest Number of Spanish Speaking Professionals in the U.S.** in the past year. He enjoys helping professionals learn in their native tongue as they strive for CPO® certification, even as they are learning English. Mr. Torres is proud to have attained his American citizenship in 2014. Since becoming an instructor in 2009, he has worked hard promoting the CPO® certification, including traveling several times to Texas and California to conduct CPO® certification classes.

Hugo Diaz, Aria de Piscinas, Copa Cabana, Colombia received the **NSPF Instructor Award for Certifying the Greatest Number of Spanish Speaking Professionals Outside the U.S. and Canada** this past year. Mr. Diaz has been an NSPF Instructor since 2012, helping to improve the safety and health of aquatic facilities and residential pools in Spanish speaking countries. In March of 2014, NSPF launched five new websites tailored to serve local pool and spa professionals in [Argentina](#), [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), [Ecuador](#) and [Panamá](#). When people visit the websites, they are greeted in their language and culture. Much of the valuable prevention and education information is found there, making it easy to sign up for online courses and training.

Asociacion de Profesionales de la Piscina, A.C., Mexico City, Mexico, represented by Humberto Abaroa-Lance, Director of Education, also a member of the NSPF Instructor Education Committee, **accepted an award on behalf of his Association for the Most Certified Individuals with the Spanish CPO® Certification Program Outside the U.S. and Canada** for the past year. "Our APP team of 15 qualified and highly professional NSPF Instructors commit their time and resources to teach the CPO® certification class to continue to elevate the aquatic field in Mexico," stated Mr. Abaroa-lance. The organization has been teaching with NSPF educational programs since 2011.

About National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®)

Everything we do, we believe helps people live healthier lives. We believe we can make a difference by encouraging more aquatic activity, making pools safer, and keeping them open. We do this by offering products and programs that are technically sound, convenient, and beautifully designed. We just happen to sell books, training programs, online courses, & organize conferences. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, proceeds go to fund research and to help create swimmers.

NSPF Certified Instructors have trained nearly 400,000 professionals in 95 countries with the Certified Pool/Spa Operator® (CPO®) certification. Over \$4 million in grants funded by NSPF since 2003 have impacted policies and practices around the world; and we attract hundreds of professionals from around the globe to the World Aquatic Health™ Conference each year to learn of the latest advances. In 2012, we launched *Step Into Swim™ Campaign*, a 10-year initiative to create 1 million more swimmers. To find ways to work together, go to www.nspf.org, www.StepIntoSwim.org, or www.HomePoolEssentials.org.

Photo available on request: Annual NSPF Instructor Meeting, October 2014

Credit: National Swimming Pool Foundation

Caption: National Swimming Pool Foundation Instructors gathered for the Annual NSPF Instructor meeting just prior to the World Aquatic Health Conference, where 11 instructors received 14 awards.