

Prospective Students

Current Students

Parents & Families

Faculty & Staff

Alumni & Friends



<https://shar.es/1ep1ek>

Admissions

Academic Programs

Schools

University Life

Why Lesley

Athletics

Helping dementia caregivers improve quality of life

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners names graduate student Joshua Freitas 2016 Educator of the Year



Home > News

Share this: [Tweet](#)



Thursday, April 14, 2016

Joshua Freitas began his career in music therapy, and was inspired to dedicate himself to working with seniors after an elderly client lost her ability to play piano due to dementia, but was able to regain her skill with six months of therapy.

Now a longtime senior-care worker and author of "The Dementia Concept," Freitas has been named 2016 Educator of the Year by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP).

The award is a tribute to Freitas's passion for education, his talent for creating positive work environments for his staff, and his skills at training health care professionals and other frontline staff, bringing to life the NCCDP's "Alzheimer's disease and



L to r) LCB Senior Living President Stephen Puliafico, CEO Michael Stoller, Joshua Freitas, National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners CEO Sandra Stimson and COO Lynn Biot.

Dementia Care Curriculum.”

“The most successful educational program that I run is called a ‘Walk in Their Shoes,’ which is a dementia simulation where someone experiences what it is like to live with dementia firsthand, while at the same time learning about the aging process,”

says Freitas, who is set to earn an M.Ed. from Lesley next month.

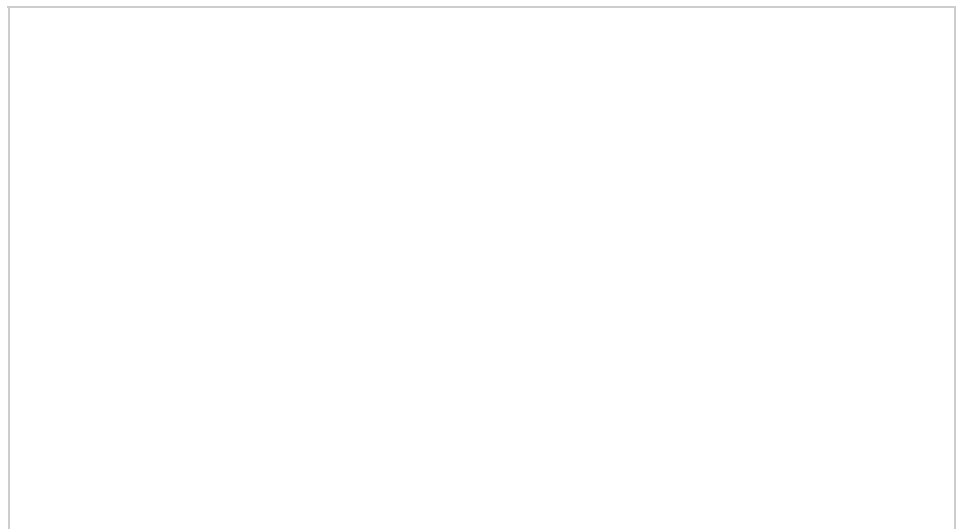
Freitas is the reflections and engagement manager for LCB Senior Living, a senior housing company headquartered in Norwood, Mass. The NCCDP award announcement hails Freitas for “reaching beyond state and federal regulations regarding dementia education” and inspiring “a lifelong passion for his employees to have continued growth in patient care,” while addressing the frustrations and challenges that dementia caregivers face.

"Joshua embodies the Lesley mission in his scholarship and practice," said Associate Professor [Meenakshi Chhabra](#), who has taught Freitas in the Interdisciplinary Studies master's program in the university's [Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences](#). "He is truly 'a catalyst' who his using his education to shape a more just, humane and sustainable world in a way that affirms the dignity of all."

He is currently building a training program to allow other organizations to offer it to their associates.

“The response from all of this community outreach has been amazing,” he reflects. “Attendees have personally called me to let me know that these trainings have improved their ability to take care of someone with dementia as well as better manage their care and quality of life.”

There is high demand for these services, he says. Since he started offering the Alzheimer’s Disease and





The news of Joshua Freitas's Educator of the Year Award is displayed in New York's Times Square.

Dementia Care Seminar to healthcare professionals, he has trained “over 400 people — both associates and professionals — within the past eight months,” he says. The seminar is a

National Dementia Certification Program through the National Council of Credited Dementia Practitioners.

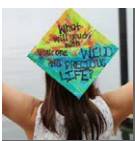
Freitas is a certified Dementia Practitioner and a certified Alzheimer's disease Dementia Care Trainer through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioner.

FEATURED NEWS



Helping dementia caregivers improve quality of life

Posted: 2016-04-14



Lesley University announces 2016 Commencement speakers

Posted: 2016-03-10



Alumna Melissa Luna (MS '01) Wins National Science Foundation Award

Posted: 2016-03-11



Scientists, educators and communities work together to restore urban environments

Posted: 2016-03-16

[View All News »](#)

COMMENTS

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

| [Letter from Interim Dean Walker](#)

| [Office of the Dean Staff](#)

| [Veterans](#)

| [Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences Home](#)

LESLEY IN THE NEWS

Lesley taps international expert on negotiation as new president

Lesley University trustees unanimously appoint Jeff A. Weiss

The Boston Globe

February 24, 2016

Artists and the city of Boston team up

Faculty Georgie Friedman named Boston Artist in Residence

The Boston Globe

February 19, 2016

Moving Masterworks

Lesley's incorporation of a former historic church into our new Lunder Arts Center demonstrates the challenges and opportunities of relocation

Architectural Record

February 2016

The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial

Faculty Susan E. Goodman's new picture book tells neglected story from African-American life

The New York Times | Sunday Book Review

February 10, 2016

| [View more news](#)

LESLEY NEWS

| [University announces partnership with major literary agency](#)

| [Trustees name Jeff A. Weiss President-elect](#)

| [Professor Irene Fountas, national literacy leader, honored with university's first endowed chair](#)

| [EPA honors Lesley for sustainable food management](#)

[View all News](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Online Programs](#)

[Work at Lesley](#)

[Communications](#)

[Support Lesley](#)

[Policies](#)

