MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
David Bernhardt Estell
(1973-2019)

David Estell was an associate professor in the counseling and educational psychology department of the School of Education at Indiana University Bloomington from 2002 until his death at age 45 from an aggressive form of cancer on February 19, 2019. David is and will continue to be missed by his family, friends, students, and colleagues.

David was born June 28, 1973 in San Diego, California. He spent much of his childhood in Ridgecrest, California, where he formed a number of lifelong friendships. David received a B.S. with honors in psychology from the University of California at Davis in 1995, and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001. His primary doctoral advisor, Dr. Robert B. Cairns, was a leader in the field of developmental psychology. After graduating, David was a NICHD postdoctoral research fellow at the Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the University of North Carolina.

In 2002, David began as an assistant professor of human development in the counseling and educational psychology department in the School of Education at Indiana University. He was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure in 2008. David’s research interests included child and adolescent social development, with an emphasis on peer relations and peer dynamics. He examined the impact of peers on the development of aggression and bullying, as well as academic achievement and self-regulated learning. His research was influential in the field of school psychology. In 2004, David received an award for best published article from the Society for the Study of School Psychology. In this paper, he and his coauthors examined similarities and differences between aggressive and popular students. Then, in 2009, David received the same award for a separate study focusing on social status and aggressive and disruptive behavior in girls. David was an editorial board member of the Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, Adolescent Research Review, and the Journal of Youth and Adolescence, and he served as an ad-hoc reviewer for many other journals.

David was an outstanding teacher and mentor. He taught a wide range of graduate courses, including child, adolescent, and lifespan development, social development, and the biological bases of behavior. He also led a proseminar in human development. As testament to his teaching skill, David was twice nominated for the Trustees Teaching Award. David was strongly committed to the success of his students, many of whom have gone on to become tenured professors at public and private teaching and research universities. He continued to publish with former students, Dr. Martin Jones and Dr. Neil Perdue. David was a positive and supportive mentor who cared deeply about student learning and growth. Throughout his career, David mentored many graduate students across a number of programs in the School of Education, including human development, educational psychology, school psychology, and counseling psychology.
In addition, David provided valued leadership at the department, school, and university level. In
the School of Education, he served as the interim associate dean of teacher education and as
the chair for the Committee on Teacher Education. David was also a member of the Indiana
University Bloomington Faculty Council. Most recently, he served as director of both the human
development and educational psychology programs.

Finally, David was a valued and cherished colleague, and he will be remembered for his humor,
kindness, and intelligence. David was supportive, ready with ideas and solutions, and he was
able to focus on both small details and the big picture. David was the colleague you hoped to
have in the office next door.

We request that this memorial tribute to David Estell be presented to the members of the
Bloomington Faculty Council, that it be preserved in its minutes and archive, and that, after its
presentation, copies be sent to his daughters, Eleanor and Lillian and his former wife, Carolyn
Munk Estell of Bloomington, his father, Robert Estell of Bloomington, and his brother, Michael
Estell of Brookline, Massachusetts, and Michael’s family, Allison, Phoebe, and Leo Estell.

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