Recognizing Special Teachers in Our Lives: Teaching Academy Unveils Wall of Honor

The Teaching Academy’s “Wall of Honor” has gone live. The Wall of Honor features teachers who have made a difference in the lives of Teaching Academy donors. View it online at www.teaching.nmsu.edu by clicking on the “Wall of Honor” link under “People.”

Tara Gray visits Thailand to Help Start Teaching Academies

Last year, a contingent of seven Thai educators visited the Teaching Academy with the intention of starting teaching academies in Thailand. Thailand reciprocated this year by inviting Tara Gray to speak before 500 Thai educators about how to found a teaching academy.
Backers, Builders, and Founders!

More than 65 members and friends are helping to support the Academy financially, helping to provide scholarships, new Academy materials, and attract national speakers—a 58% increase over last year!

For more information, please call Mark Hohnstreiter at 646-3625 or email him at mhohnstr@nmsu.edu.

ADVANCE joins the Teaching Academy

Over the next year, Pam Hunt, associate director for NSF ADVANCE, will become an associate director of the Teaching Academy as she continues to help enhance the careers of all faculty, especially women and other underrepresented groups in the sciences and engineering. She hopes to move many ADVANCE programs to the Teaching Academy, as funds allow: Department Head Training, Promotion and Tenure Workshops, ADVANCE Mentoring Program, and ADVANCing Leaders.

The third annual Teaching Academy Gala for 2005–2006 took place on May 3 to honor 244 Teaching Academy members (a 12 percent increase in membership from last year!).

• 2006 Honorary Members: Pat Hynes and Judy McShannon, New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
• Most distinguished department: The Department of Nursing in the College of Health and Social Services.
• Most distinguished faculty member: Amiya Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Computer Science.
• Most distinguished graduate student: Carlos Baca-Chacon, a Ph.D. student in Educational Management and Development.

Teaching Academy Survey Results

Our recent impact survey had a response rate of over 50 percent (259 responding), with 89 percent of members agreeing with the statement, “Based on my experiences with the Teaching Academy, I have made positive changes in my teaching.” Some comments include:

Students are Engaged

• “Students seem to be more engaged. Fewer students withdraw and more students complete the course successfully.”
• “Students are more alert and attentive during lectures, labs, and discussions.”
• “More constructive ‘chatter’ about the problems in pair sharing instead of chit-chat.”

Students are More Successful

• “Their performance on quizzes has improved markedly.”
• “Students have less difficulty in completing their homework, and they tend to drop in lower numbers.”
• “Increased preparation for class. Better grades on national testing.”

Teaching Academy events and registration are available online at www.teaching.nmsu.edu or 646-2299 for help.