

Supporting Teachers

Enhancing Learning

Building Community

The Teaching Academy website is your online guide to Teaching Academy Offerings and Registration

■ The Teaching Academy website provides an updated listing of Academy events and offerings, as well as convenient online registration.

www.teaching.nmsu.edu



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Teaching Academy and ADVANCE serve as models nationwide

Academy director, Dr. Tara Gray, presented an overview of the New Mexico State University Teaching Academy for 150 teaching center directors and their supervisors, representing 66 universities in the SUNY (State University of New York) system. The NMSU Teaching Academy was featured because of its excellent programming, its high rate of participation, and its success in fundraising. "It's great that in such a few years the NMSU Teaching Academy has become a model for other teaching centers," Gray said.

More recently, Dr. Gray made a presentation to New Mexico Highlands University, which is founding a center using NMSU's Teaching Academy model.

The NMSU ADVANCE Program continues to work effectively to help promote a diverse faculty at NMSU, statewide and nationally. Statewide, ADVANCE disseminates its best practices for faculty recruitment, retention and advancement through the NM-PAID grant. Recently NM-PAID director Dr. Tracy Sterling traveled to UNM to help set up a faculty mentoring program, and conducted a mentor training for Los Alamos National



Tara Gray addresses the SUNY system about enhancing teaching centers by beefing up programming, participation and fundraising.

Laboratory via video-conference. Shawn Werner represented the program at three conferences. In addition, through the PROMOTE grant, NMSU is participating with Utah State University to help advance junior faculty to senior ranks at universities across the nation.

New Course: Teaching Scholars

The Teaching Academy is presenting a new offering, a spring semester course entitled, *Teaching Scholars*, which covers teaching from "A to Z." The course systematically covers learning objectives, assessment and pedagogy, and, later, such topics as time management, engaging students, using "clickers," diversity, and teaching online. For more information, please contact Tara or Jean.

Recent Accolades

Teaching Scholars: "This class is a "MUST"! I am new to teaching and have benefited from attending. The assignments were both manageable and meaningful. Jean and Tara were both enthusiastic and captivating—they made learning fun."

• *Tammara M. Chaffee, Instructor, Radiologic Technology, Doña Ana Community College*

ADVANCE Department Head Retreat: "Thanks very much for organizing and hosting such a valuable meeting! I found much of it to be very informative and helpful, and can already see some ways in which I can change my mode of operation to be a better department head and mentor."

• *Jim Murphy, Head, Department of Astronomy*

Fifth Annual Teaching Academy Gala



photos by Darren Phillips, University Communications

One of the major purposes of our 5th annual Gala was to celebrate those individuals and departments who have made noteworthy contributions and accomplishments at the Teaching Academy. In 2007-2008, these included:

Francis Rooker, a dual-degree graduate student in Dietetics and the Master's of Public Health program, was the most distinguished graduate student, participating in the most hours of training of any graduate student at the Teaching Academy.

In similar fashion, the most distinguished faculty member was **Robert Paz**, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The **School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management** was the most distinguished department, having the highest average participation in training at the Teaching Academy.

The Outstanding Workshop Award was won by **Michèle Shuster**, assistant professor in the Department of Biology. Her workshop on "clickers" was the highest participant-rated workshop this year and is a perennial Academy favorite.

Inducted as an honorary member for her contributions to professional development was **Tracy Sterling**, professor of weed physiology in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science. Dr. Sterling also serves as the director and P.I. of the NSF-ADVANCE program at NMSU.

Finally, the Teaching Academy honored three new benefactors who provided exceptional financial support to the Academy. They are **Dr. Glenn F. Hohnstreiter**, **Sherry Mills**, professor in the Department of Accounting and Business Computing Systems, and **Pookie Sautter**, head of the Department of Marketing. They join Tara Gray and Herb and Joan Zuhl as the six benefactors of the Teaching Academy.

As has become a Teaching Academy tradition, the short ceremony was followed by its signature reception, *Champagne and Chocolate*.

Teaching Academy Goes Green

You may notice that the Teaching Academy is producing and distributing far less paper this year. Our workshops and other teaching offerings are now publicized through emails to faculty, as well as prominently listed on our website, teaching.nmsu.edu. We expect to save some 50,000 pieces of paper annually! Of course, a few special documents and flyers will continue to be printed, but these will be an exception.

So, please take special note of emails received from the Teaching Academy notifying you of upcoming events!

Left: Teaching Academy staff (l-r): Pam Hunt, Jean Conway, Tara Gray, Gloria Sotelo, Ray Leseth, Sandra Lujan, Mark Hohnstreiter.

Middle: Bobbie Derlin declares that the Teaching Academy Gala is her favorite day of the year—every year.

Right: Interim President Waded Cruzado presents Teaching Academy Director Tara Gray with roses in celebration of the Teaching Academy's fifth anniversary.

**\$2,500 to go!
Every dollar counts!**

This year, in recognition of our Teaching Academy's fifth anniversary, we set an ambitious goal of increasing annual giving by \$5,000. We are pleased to report that we are already half way there! We invite you to join us—a payroll deduction form is enclosed with this issue of *ClassActs*.

Our donors help support scholarships to teaching workshops, new materials for our library, hosting nationally recognized speakers, and developing even more innovative programs.

