

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](http://www.teaching.nmsu.edu)



The Teaching Academy MSC 3TA  
New Mexico State University  
PO Box 30001  
Las Cruces NM 88001  
Milton Hall Room 50  
575.646.2204  
575.646.1330 fax  
teaching@nmsu.edu  
www.teaching.nmsu.edu

## U.S. Department of Education Grant Promotes Effective STEM Education

A \$2.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education was awarded to Carmen Gonzales, Vice President of the Division of Student Success, Las Cruces campus, and Margie Huerta, President of Doña Ana Community College. This PRIMOS project is designed to increase the number of Hispanic and low income students who declare a major and attain a degree in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). It is also designed to implement an effective transfer model between the DACC and Las Cruces campuses.

The Teaching Academy is involved because the grant aims to promote effective STEM education backed by evidence; to promote and support pedagogical and curricular efforts to improve student learning; and to



*Michaela Burkardt is the faculty development coordinator for the PRIMOS grant.*

establish what STEM students should learn and determine whether they are learning it.

Michaela Burkardt, Physics, has been assigned to the Teaching Academy to lead the faculty development effort to help achieve these goals. She is facilitating a 44 member cohort of STEM faculty from DACC and Las Cruces campuses in a year-long faculty development program. If you are a STEM faculty member who is interested in being in the next cohort please contact Michaela Burkardt at [miburkar@nmsu.edu](mailto:miburkar@nmsu.edu).

## Portfolios

The Teaching Academy launched a new workshop for faculty, graduate students and staff seeking to document their greatest accomplishments in teaching. *Teaching Portfolios* aims to assist participants in developing an executive summary with

appendices that explains what they do as a teacher, how they do it, and how well they do it. In the workshop, faculty receive feedback from peers and from a mentor who has successfully completed a teaching portfolio. Coming next June 7-11: Help with tenure portfolios!

## Teaching Academy Survey Demonstrates Impact

The 2009 Impact Survey was developed to measure the effect of the Teaching Academy/ADVANCE on teaching, student learning, and other professional development at NMSU. More than 90% of the 164 respondents agreed that the Academy had helped them make positive changes in these areas.

### Positive changes reported in student learning:

"Improved writing and critical thinking skills."

"I see improvements on exam questions used in the past."

"Students perform better on quizzes and exams."

### Positive changes in professional growth:

"The ADVANCE mentoring program was of great benefit to me during my tenure and promotion application. The workshops were instructive and useful."

"I am more confident in my classes and it feeds into my research."

"I've published far more papers than I ever thought possible!"

# 2009 Teaching Academy Gala



photos by courtesy of University Communications

The sixth annual Teaching Academy Gala was held Thursday, April 30, to honor 204 Teaching Academy members. Teaching Academy members each participate in at least ten hours of training during 2008-9.

The most distinguished graduate student participated in the most hours of training at the Teaching Academy in 2008-9. Joe Gladstone from the College of Business won this award.

The most distinguished faculty member participated in the most hours of training at the Teaching Academy. The award was won by Anita Rheinhardt from the College of Health and Social Services, School of Nursing.

The most distinguished department had the highest average participation in training at the Teaching Academy in 2008-9. Women's Studies won this honor.

The Outstanding Workshop Award is won by the workshop presenter who gave the highest rated workshop, as rated by participants. Mary Prentice from the Department of Educational Management and Development won the award for her workshop, *Students as Partners in Learning: Co-creating the Class Syllabus*.

The Innovation Award is won by the teacher who puts an idea from the Teaching Academy to best use. The 2008-9 award was won by David Smith, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for his use of clickers in an introductory class.

The short ceremony was followed by a reception, *Champagne and Chocolate*.

**Left:** David Smith receives the Innovation Award from Bobbie Derlin.

**Middle:** Mary Prentice, Mónica Torres and Manal Hamzeh enjoying the Champagne and Chocolate reception.

## **Backers, Builders, and Founders!**

Some 115 members and friends are helping to support the Academy financially. This represents a 25% increase over last year! These gifts will assist the Academy as it provides scholarships to teaching conferences, purchases new materials for the Library, and brings nationally known speakers to our campus.

To contribute to the Teaching Academy, please see the attached contribution form.

## **ADVANCING Leaders**

In late August the sixth cohort of the ADVANCING Leaders Program (ALP) met in Cloudcroft for their annual retreat. This year-long leadership program was established in 2004 and has trained more than 60 faculty to date, with up to two participants from each of the six academic colleges and Doña Ana Community College participating each year. The program provides monthly workshops and a two-day off-campus retreat to develop leadership and managerial skills, and to improve personal skills for leadership in teaching, research, service, extension, or administration. Participants build ongoing networking opportunities, connect with a mentor from upper administration, and demonstrate an understanding about the core values and best practices at NMSU.

