



"Who dares to teach must never cease to learn." • John Cotton Dana

Class Acts

Fall 2010

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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2010 Teaching Academy Gala

The seventh annual Teaching Academy Gala was held Thursday, April 29 at the Stan Fulton Center, to honor almost 300 Teaching Academy members.

To qualify as a Teaching Academy Member requires at least 10 hours of participation. A total of 109 participants met that criteria while an additional 91 Sustaining Members engaged in at least 20 hours. Eighty-eight Distinguished Members dedicated 40 hours or more to faculty development at the Teaching Academy.

On occasion the Teaching Academy recognizes a member of faculty or staff for their outstanding contribution to faculty development at NMSU by inducting them as an Honorary Member. This year that honor went to Shelly Stovall for her tireless work to advance the understanding and use of authentic assessment practices.

The Innovation Award is an honor presented to the applicant who puts an idea from the Teaching Academy to best use. This year Nancy Chanover of the Department of Astronomy won for her implementation of Team-Based Learning.

The Outstanding Workshop Award goes to the NMSU presenter who received the highest workshop evaluation. David Pengelley from the Department of Mathematical Sciences won for his workshop, "We lecture because they don't read, and they don't read because we lecture: How to beat the lecture/textbook trap!"

The Most Distinguished Department for 2009-2010 has the highest average participation at the Teaching Academy. The Department of Sociology achieved this honor. Besides attending many workshops over the past year Sociology faculty members have participated as mentors and mentees, invited observers into their online- and on-campus classes, and partnered with the Teaching Academy to bring Guerilla Girls to campus.

Kiran Sapkota, a graduate student from Department of Biology was honored as the Most Distinguished Graduate Student Member for most hours of graduate student participation. He plans to remain in academia to do research and spread the gospel of biology. Wiebke Boeing of the Department of Fishery, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology earned the rank of Most Distinguished Faculty Member based on her hours. Donors Bethany Bovar of Distance Education and Laura Madson of the Department of Psychology were recognized as donors whose exceptional gifts to the Teaching Academy place them at the level of Benefactors.

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



photo courtesy of University Communications
President Barbara Couture and husband Paul greet 2010 Teaching Academy members and donors to the Gala celebration.



<http://www.teaching.nmsu.edu>

Tara Gray Addresses Two Universities that Want to Establish Teaching Academies



Tara Gray, director of the Teaching Academy, addresses members of four HCT colleges in the UAE.

Robert Moulton (left), Director of two Higher Colleges of Technology in the UAE, invited Tara Gray to present an overview of the Teaching Academy. Right: Ahmed Khodare, NMSU alum, Ph.D. Engineering.

In April, Teaching Academy director, Tara Gray, presented an overview of the NMSU Teaching Academy at Montana State University. She was invited by Waded Cruzado, currently President of Montana State University.

She also presented an overview of the Teaching Academy to 300 people from four colleges in the Higher Colleges of Technology system in the United Arab Emirates. She was invited by Robert Moulton, former Interim Provost of NMSU and Dean of the College of Education. Moulton currently serves as Director of two of the Higher Colleges of Technology in Ras al Khaimah. Both Cruzado and Moulton want to establish Teaching Academies on their respective campuses.

Tenure & Promotion Portfolios

The Teaching Academy launched a new workshop for faculty wanting to come up for tenure with an expertly prepared packet. In the workshop, faculty receive feedback from peers and from a mentor who has successfully completed the tenure and promotion process. Seventeen people participated in this workshop and they rated it a 6.9 on a 7.0 scale. The workshop will be offered again in June 2011.

PRIMOS Cohort Enhances STEM Teaching

More than 40 faculty members from NMSU and DACC participated in 2500 workshop hours during the 2009-2010 academic year to study effective teaching methods and student learning, particularly for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. They shared ideas, tried new teaching methods, and learned from each other.



Photo: Michaela Burkardt

Instructors meet in smaller groups during a faculty cohort session.

One instructor reported that the faculty cohort had a huge effect on his teaching style. As a result, the instructor has sensed more enthusiasm from the students.

Interested instructors may join faculty learning communities for the 2010-2011 academic year. For more information, contact Michaela Burkardt at miburkar@nmsu.edu.

Backers, Builders, and Founders!

Some 136 members and friends are helping to support the Academy financially. 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.

