



# Class Acts

Supporting Teaching & Learning • Enhancing Careers & Leadership • Fostering Diversity & Community



## Crucial Conversations® Becomes Part of the Fabric of NMSU

Crucial Conversations® training prepares participants for conversations where stakes are high, opinions differ and emotions run strong. This training will now be offered regularly to NMSU faculty, staff and graduate students and is possible because Shawn Werner, Associate Director for Leadership and Mentoring, became certified during the summer of 2015. The certification built on her skills as a teacher of communication studies, where she has taught many courses including conflict management. Five 90-minute sessions will feature extensive in-class practice, group work, and personal reflection as participants explore (and begin to master) Crucial Conversations®. The training will be held in the fall of 2015 for department heads and in the spring of 2016 for other NMSU educators.

## Teaching Academy Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Michelle Jackson

In January 2015, Michelle Jackson joined the Academy team as associate director of teaching and learning. She replaced long-standing associate director Jean Conway. This fall, she is teaching two sections of *How Learning Works*, which opens with an overview workshop and continues as a book discussion group. Next spring, she is co-teaching Teaching Scholars: Excel as a Teacher, a one-semester course on how to teach. One of her initial aims is to expand the classroom observation project. Classroom observations allow for anyone teaching at NMSU to have his/her class observed by a faculty consultant and then discuss strengths and future teaching goals. It is her hope that this initiative will foster a spirit of collaboration and deepen cross-campus conversations about pedagogy.

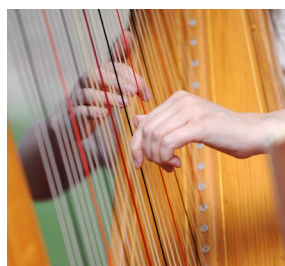
In April 2015, Sandy Katayanagi became the administrative assistant for the Teaching Academy and Instructional Innovation and Quality. Prior to joining the Academy, she worked for seven years at the Business and Information Systems Division of Doña Ana Community College where she won the 2012 outstanding employee of the year (non-exempt). Before that she worked for Kaiser Permanente and Levi Strauss & Company in California. She earned her BA in radio and television from San Francisco State University. Sandy brings strong administrative and organizational skills to her new job. Sandy is the main contact for registration questions and she makes sure everything's ready when you come to your next workshop. She is a photographer and enjoys the outdoors.



Sandy Katayanagi



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  
teaching.nmsu.edu



# Teaching Academy Gala Celebrates Members and Donors

The twelfth anniversary Teaching Academy Gala was held Wednesday, April 29, 2015, to celebrate 400 Teaching Academy members and 120 donors. Teaching Academy members participated in at least ten hours of faculty development during 2014-2015. Provost Dan Howard and Deputy Provost Gregory Fant announced and presented awards.

The most distinguished graduate student and the most distinguished faculty member participated in the greatest number of hours of professional development. Conni DeBlicke, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, received the faculty award and Kefaya Diab, a PhD student of rhetoric & professional communication in the Department of English, won the graduate student award.

Kefaya Diab was also honored with the Truly Innovative Teaching Award which is presented each year to the individual who best applies learning at the Teaching Academy to their teaching. Kefaya won for her work with students to make short movies that express their identities and promote ideas that call for social change.

The Outstanding Mentor Award was won by Martha Mitchell, professor of chemical engineering. She was nominated by Jessica Houston and supported by seven protégés, arguing on behalf of Mitchell's talents as a mentor.

The Outstanding Workshop Award was presented to the person who gave the workshop at the Teaching Academy that participants rated the highest among the 100 such workshops given last year. Laura Madson, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology, won this award for her week-long workshop on team-based learning.



*Kefaya Diab, English, accepts the Truly Innovative Teaching Award. She was the first graduate student ever to win the award.*



At the 2015 Gala we also honored four new donors, pictured here, to the Teaching Academy whose generosity placed them in the highest level of donors: Deb McCormick, DACC Adult Basic Education; Greg Fant, Deputy Provost; Sue Forster-Cox, Health Sciences; Mary Sletten, DACC Business Office Technology; Dan Howard, Provost.

## NMSU's First TEAL Classroom

NMSU recently opened its first Technology-Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) classroom in the Hardman and Jacobs Undergraduate Learning Center. The TEAL classroom provides students and teachers with a modern space for more interaction and better learning. The room seats 108; students sit in groups of nine at twelve large circular tables. Each table is equipped with three laptops that can be displayed to the flat screen monitors around the room. Microphones at each table allow for groups to share their work with the class as a whole. White board paint allows for students to make their ideas public on the wall. The teacher station is in the middle of the room. Faculty and students at other universities rave about TEAL classrooms, such as the faculty and students from George Mason speaking here: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/90594960>.

### Upcoming:

Thanks to Teaching Academy donors, the following nationally known speakers will visit NMSU during the Fall 2015 semester:

**Lynn Blanchard**, *Director of the Carolina Center for Public Service, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Connecting and Presenting Your Scholarship of Engagement/ Application in the Boyer Model  
Friday, September 18 • 9:30-11:30am  
Civic Engagement and Service-Learning: There's something in it for everyone!

Friday, September 18 • 1:30-3:30pm

**Gary Smith**, *School of Medicine, University of New Mexico*

**& Aurora Pun**, *Earth & Planetary Sciences, University of New Mexico*

Maximizing Active Learning with TEAL Classrooms

Friday, September 25 • 8:30-11:30am  
OR 12:30-3:30pm

**Kimberly Tanner**, *Professor of Biology, San Francisco State University*

Helping Undergraduates Move from Novice to Expert Thinking

Friday, October 30 • 9:30-11:30 am

Cultural Competency in the Undergraduate Classroom: Cross-Disciplinary Tools, Insights, and Strategies to Promote Student Success

Friday, October 30 • 1:30-3:30pm

### Words from our donors:

The Teaching Academy rocks and you and your staff are an exceptional resource for the NMSU teaching mission. Keep up the good work.

~**Tom Dormody**, *Professor, Agricultural and Extension Education*

I donate to the Teaching Academy because it is important for faculty to have educational resources. It is necessary for instructors to be successful with student interaction and instruction. By funding the Academy this will ensure there is "current" continuing education for faculty members to have the tools to be successful. ~**Conni J. DeBlicke**, *Assistant Professor, Nursing*

