

Western Oregon University – 2010 Faculty Pastega Awards

Excellence in Scholarship award

Dr. Mark Girod began his educational journey right here on the grounds of Western Oregon University where he attended the university's lab school, now occupied by the Instructional Technology Center. With degrees from both WOSC and WOU in education, he taught science in Boardman, Ore., and in Lansing, Mich., where he pursued doctoral studies at Michigan State University.

His dissertation, entitled *Teaching for aesthetic understanding in a 5 grade science classroom*, was recognized as Dissertation of the Year by the National Association of Research on Science Teaching in 2002. While at MSU, he taught classes and served as Assistant Director of Evaluation and Research for a federally funded community learning center called Kids Learning in Computer Klubhouses!

Since returning to WOU in 2001, he has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, supervised students in field placements, and coordinated the Master of Arts in Teaching program. After his promotion to Associate Professor and tenure, he was elected Chair of the Division of Teacher Education and inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.

His current scholarship includes co-editorship of a book of case studies documenting the history, evolution and research around the use of Teacher Work Samples and co-development of the Cook School Simulation—an interactive simulation designed to help preservice teachers practice decision-making related to teaching and learning.

He has authored and co-authored 29 published articles, several which have been reprinted, and co-edited two books. He is a frequent presenter at the American Educational Research Association and American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, with over 50 refereed presentations at state, regional, national and international conferences. He is a reviewer for four academic journals, editorial board member for a journal entitled *THEN: Technology, Humanities, Education, & Narrative*, and is a board member of several Oregon professional associations.

At Western, he has served as President of the Faculty Senate, member of the Academic Requirements Committee, and chair of the Institutional Review Board. Mark not only teaches research techniques, both quantitative and qualitative, but he finds innovative ways to engage students in reading and critiquing research. He has taught an Honors Seminar called Transformative Experiences, serves as Executive Director of the Forgotten People Foundation, has traveled with WOU students to support facilities serving orphans in Vietnam, and is co-founder of the second Oregon Student Chapter of ASCD.

Excellence in Teaching award

Dr. Karie Mize has been a faculty member in the Division of Teacher Education at Western Oregon University since 2005 when she moved to Oregon from California where she had been a bilingual classroom teacher in three California school districts. Her interest in teacher education was honed from positions she held at University of California Davis, California State University in Sacramento, Dominican University of California, and Chapman University. She received the Outstanding Doctoral Student award at the University of San Francisco where she received her doctorate degree and studied the role of white allies in teacher education. She has continued her scholarship focus on multi-culturalism and has had 10 manuscripts published since 2007, four letters to the editor, and over 20 invited and refereed presentations since 2005.

Dr. Mize has taught 11 different graduate and undergraduate courses delivered face-to-face, online, and through a mixed model at Western. Her portfolio includes a detailed explanation of the courses she has taught accompanied by examples of instructional strategies used and feedback that Dr. Mize gives and has received from her students.

The courses she teaches can often cause students to confront their own perceptions and biases and it is not uncommon to see this reflected in student evaluation data. This is not true for Dr. Mize who takes the initiative to collect these data each term and consistently is rated very high in all categories.

Her enthusiasm, can-do spirit, and energy attracts many students to the College of Education and she has been honored as an ASWOU Advisor of the Year for her work with MEChA. Her belief that “travel accelerates the path to cultural competence” has resulted in the development of sustainable study abroad opportunities for our students in Mexico’s Morelia. She took students to Mexico last summer and she has now coordinated a summer class that will be offered this summer in Morelia.

As her portfolio illustrates, she has built the college’s Bilingual Teacher Initiative from ground up with research, recruitment, personal connections, networking, and one-on-one mentoring. When it became clear that many of our bilingual students needed additional supports related to required state testing, she brought together colleagues from the Oregon Education Association, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Academic Advising and Learning Center, and the Division of Teacher Education to develop test preparation workshops and then she kept this service sustained and growing with encouragement and organization.

Her passion for the Bilingual Teacher Initiative is contagious and she has built numerous bridges with external partners who now view WOU as a leading producer of bilingual and teachers of color prepared to help Oregon English Language Learner (ELL) students achieve.