

Excellence in Teaching

Western Oregon University relies heavily on adjunct faculty. Nationally, adjunct faculty provide more than half the instruction at colleges and universities. "At Oregon's seven public universities, the number of adjuncts rose from 25 percent of the faculty in 1999 to 33 percent in 2004. Western Oregon University has the highest percentage, at 53 percent" (Silverman, 2005).

In September 2005 the Center for Teaching and Learning inaugurated an Orientation and Professional Development program for adjunct faculty. This first time event was a resounding success. Adjunct faculty found the inaugural Orientation and Professional Development Program valuable. Participants especially liked the positive support and recognition this event offered adjunct faculty.

Adjunct faculty are a valuable resource and occupy a special place at Western Oregon University. The Provost has established an award for Excellence in Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty member. This exhibit is further honor and a celebration of the work of adjunct faculty.

The campus community was invited to share their stories about excellent teaching by adjunct faculty. Faculty, students and staff captured moments of excellence for each of the faculty honored here.

On Thursday, May 5, 2006 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in Werner University Center. All adjunct faculty (and tenure and tenure track faculty) will be invited to attend a celebration to re-connect and make new connections with colleagues, to share stories, and learn from one another as they celebrate one another. All faculty members honored in a story will receive a Certificate of Excellence signed by the Provost and President.