



# Class Acts

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



## Positive Leadership

### Greg Fant, Deputy Provost, on Positive Leadership



When I was in the classroom on a regular basis, my goal was to create an environment where students could learn. As I moved into administration, I have adapted this idea to creating an environment where faculty can teach, discover, and serve. Positive leadership centers on creating the right environment while respecting the diversity of thought and perspective that is so valuable to the academy.

The past few years I've had the opportunity to talk to various student groups. On more than one occasion, I shared the familiar fable of the two wolves. The premise is that a grandfather is taking a walk with his grandson and tells the boy that there are two wolves fighting within him. One wolf represents truth, justice, purity, hard work, and integrity. The other wolf represents deceit, jealousy, envy, selfishness, and hatred. The grandson asked the grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The grandfather replies, "The one you feed."

As we progress through the semester, we will have many opportunities to impact and transform the lives of our students as well as our colleagues. Regardless of our titles, we all have opportunities to lead from wherever we are in the university. As the Teaching Academy prepares for a nationally known speaker on positive leadership, I encourage you to create that environment that feeds the good wolf and allows the caring community to grow.

### Jeffrey Buller, Florida Atlantic University, to Speak at NMSU

As a leader in your classes, lab, and department, you strive to stay positive and mindful in stressful times. Dr. Jeffrey Buller, Florida Atlantic University, has written 15 books about leadership in higher education, including positive academic leadership and mindful academic leadership. He has served in many leadership capacities ranging from department head to vice president of academic affairs.



On **Friday February 2, 2018**, Dr. Buller will be presenting two sessions at the Teaching Academy that are open to all faculty and staff:

#### **Positive Academic Leadership**

10:30am–12:00pm

[Click Here to Register for Positive Academic Leadership](#)

#### **Mindful Academic Leadership**

2:30–4:00pm

[Click Here to Register for Mindful Academic Leadership](#)

*“Negative leaders become fixated on problems; positive leaders are aware of possibilities and can build something useful out of even the worst type of problem.”*

—Jeffrey Buller

# Student Panels on Diversity

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The Teaching Academy provides a space for diverse perspectives and voices. During this calendar year, the Academy offered a special series of events on diversity and inclusion, which featured 14 workshops and panels. Last spring, we offered a panel featuring African American Students. This fall a panel on women in academia and a panel of Hispanic students shared their experiences at NMSU. Participants wrote:

*“Eye-opening in sad and shocking ways.”*

*“Brave students bared their souls today.”*

*“My heart breaks for these students who are swimming upstream, but they don’t quit! I won’t either!”*

Starting next week, we will offer the following panels that will deepen our understanding of our community of students:

## **Including LGBT+ Students in the Classroom and Beyond**

Tuesday, October 10, 2:45-4:00pm

Panelists: LGBT+ Students

[Click Here to Register for the LGBT+ Student Panel](#)

## **Native American Students Share Their Stories: Being Native American at NMSU**

Thursday, November 9, 2:45-4:00pm

Panelists: Native American Students

[Click Here to Register for the Native American Student Panel](#)



# The Advancing Leaders Program

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The Advancing Leaders Program (ALP) is a 9-month leadership program provided every other year through the NMSU Teaching Academy. It is offered to tenured faculty members and academic administrators wishing to widen their networks and hone their leadership skills.

In 2015 the program was assessed and changes were made based on feedback received by former ALP cohort members. The newly revamped ALP aims to help faculty and academic administrators: 1) identify and develop leadership skills that can be applied in a wide variety of contexts, 2) connect with faculty across campus in order to build community, and 3) optimize relationships with students, faculty, and staff by focusing on strengths and effective communication skills.

Those who participate in the program will attend a two-day retreat, work with a mentor on campus, attend monthly leadership workshops and working sessions, and participate in a recognition event where each cohort member will have the opportunity to reflect on what they have learned in the program. Reflections include:

*“Every aspect of the ALP program was valuable. The program was very well structured and touched on different aspects of leadership.”*

*“The Advancing Leaders Program is an amazing experience. Sessions on leadership have been useful in managing time as well as faculty. Other sessions on how the university works, from budget to central administration also have provided valuable guides to getting things done. Finally, the camaraderie of the others in this year’s ALP, the wide range of faculty in the program, has made for some new partnerships that assist with the difficult and challenging times that we face at NMSU.”*

Applications for the 2018-2019 cohort are being accepted through March 2nd, 2018. For an application or for information about the Advancing Leaders Program (ALP), please contact Shawn Werner at 646-2583.

# The 2017 Teaching Academy Gala

The fourteenth annual Teaching Academy Gala was held Monday, May 1, 2016 to celebrate 350 Teaching Academy members and over 120 donors. Teaching Academy members participated in at least ten hours of faculty development during 2016-2017. Andrea Tawney, VP for University Advancement, and Deputy Provost Greg Fant officiated.

The Most Distinguished Member Award was presented to the faculty member and graduate student who participated in the greatest number of hours of professional development. The faculty member who received this honor was Mary Prentice, an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Administration. Tara Young, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Psychology, was the graduate student awarded this year.

The Outstanding Mentor Award was won by Mónica Torres, VPAA of Doña Ana Community College, who has served as a mentor and presenter for the Advancing Leaders Program as well as a facilitator for diversity workshops.

The Outstanding Workshop Award was earned for the workshop presented at the Teaching Academy this year that participants rated the highest among the 100 such workshops. Michèle Shuster, Associate Professor of Biology won for her workshop entitled Active Learning: What is it, how do you implement it, and why would you want to?

The Truly Innovative Teaching Award was endowed in 2014 through a gift of Elise “Pookie” and Michael Sautter. The award is presented to the individual who best applies learning at the Teaching Academy to their teaching. Gerri McCulloh, English, was honored with the Truly Innovative Teaching Award. Gerri won for her work in motivating students to solve problems where they work, play and live.

The highest award bestowed by the Teaching Academy, an Honorary Membership, is conferred upon an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to faculty development at NMSU. This year the award went to Esther Devall, Family and Consumer Sciences, who chaired the Advisory Committee for the Department Head Academy for 7 years. Esther also made a significant planned gift to the Teaching Academy to help ensure that the Academy is woven into the fabric that is NMSU.

*Tara Young, Psychology, speaks after earning the Most Distinguished Graduate Member Award.*



*"When I read my evaluations from my first course, I cried out of sadness. When I read my second set of evaluations, I cried out of happiness. I attribute the change to learning from experience and also from the Teaching Academy."*



*Tara Gray and Esther Devall, Family and Consumer Sciences, after Esther received her Honorary Membership in the Teaching Academy.*

## Backers, Builders, Founders, & Benefactors

We'd like to invite you to participate as a donor to the Teaching Academy and be recognized as such. Payroll deduction makes this easy and affordable. Our donor levels are:

- Benefactor • \$50 per pay period
- Founder • \$25 per pay period
- Builder • \$10 per pay period
- Backer • \$5 per pay period

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