



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

Class Acts Fall 2012

Supporting Teachers	•	Improving Learning	•	Building Community
Fostering Diversity	•	Advancing Leaders	•	Enhancing Careers

The Teaching Academy website is your online guide to Teaching Academy Offerings and Registration

■ teaching.nmsu.edu

Focus on ADVANCE

In addition to its emphasis on teaching, the other program at the core of the Teaching Academy’s work is ADVANCE, which focuses on fostering diversity, advancing leaders, and enhancing careers.

ADVANCE is now directed by Shawn Werner, M.A., who joined the Teaching Academy in 2012 as its associate director. She assumes the position vacated by Pam Hunt, who recently retired after 10 years of service to NMSU and ADVANCE. “I am delighted to continue and expand my role with ADVANCE. It’s a natural outgrowth of my work with the NSF ADVANCE-PAID grant, which sought to disseminate ADVANCE best practices throughout the state,” Werner says.

ADVANCE serves the NMSU faculty community with four programs: the Department Head Academy; ADVANCING Leaders; the ADVANCE Faculty Mentoring Program; and promotion and tenure workshops. **The Department Head Academy (DHA)** is a partnership with the Provost’s office, providing professional development events for department heads. “We offer the DHA workshops in order to provide departmental leaders at NMSU an opportunity to learn more about the current issues affecting higher education and academic leadership,” according to Shawn. “We provide them with tools and networking opportunities that may assist them in dealing with some of the challenges they face in their positions as department heads.”

The ADVANCING Leaders Program (ALP) trains 12 tenured participants from the Las Cruces and Doña Ana campuses annually. This year-long program was established in 2004 and has trained more than 160 faculty members to date. Its members participate in monthly programs, build ongoing networking opportunities, connect with a mentor from upper administration, and demonstrate an understanding about the core values and best practices at NMSU. “The ALP has a track record of seeing members go on to senior leadership positions at the University. We would like to think that the program has been a factor in their leadership success,” added Shawn.

The ADVANCE Faculty Mentoring Program promotes professional development by connecting faculty with others who can advise, coach and guide them, as well as help them understand the NMSU context. “The program aims to provide both mentors and mentees with the chance to feel more connected to NMSU both on a person-to-person level, as well as through networking to understand the ‘big picture.’”

Promotion and Tenure workshops are offered in partnership with the NMSU Hispanic Caucus and Office of the Provost. Shawn explains that “the goal of these workshops is to improve the transparency of the promotion and tenure process for faculty at NMSU.” They include workshops for pre-tenure faculty, tenured faculty seeking full professorships, and college-track faculty.



Participants at the 2011 reunion of ADVANCING Leaders enjoy a meal together.



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Spring 2012 Teaching Academy Gala & Awards

The ninth annual Teaching Academy Gala was held Friday, May 4, at the Stan Fulton Center to honor 300 Teaching Academy members. President Barbara Couture and Provost Wendy K. Wilkins made remarks and presented awards. More than 100 Teaching Academy members and donors attended.

In her presentation, President Couture noted that the Teaching Academy is celebrating a record number of events at the Academy this year (about 150 events), as well as record participation, 12,000 hours, which is equivalent to the participation in 16 three-hour courses with 20 students.

Teaching Academy Members participated in at least ten hours of training during 2011-2012. A total of 151 met this criteria. An additional 96 Sustaining Members engaged in at least 20 hours. Ninety-two Distinguished Members dedicated 40 hours or more to faculty development at the Academy.

Some 120 members and others make regular gifts to the Academy, and they were also recognized. Esther Devall was honored at the event as a Benefactor. Donors help support workshop presenters, provide books for the library, and enable teaching scholarships.

The *most distinguished graduate student* participated in the most hours of training at the Teaching Academy in 2011-2012. Menuka Karki, a graduate student in the Department of Biology, won this award.

The *most distinguished faculty member* participated in the most hours of training at the Teaching Academy in 2011-2012. The award was won by Alla Kammerdiner, an assistant professor of industrial engineering in the College of Engineering.

The *Outstanding Workshop Award* is won by the workshop presenters who gave the highest rated workshop, as rated by participants. Sharna Horn, coordinator for the Sexual and Gender Diversity Resource Center, won the award. Sharna is a doctoral student in Counseling and Educational Psychology.

The *Innovation Award* was won by Kenneth J. Martin, Regents Professor of Finance in the College of Business. He wins the award because of his work in "flipping the classroom," by having students acquire content knowledge outside of class and work at higher levels in class—where Dr. Martin can help them.

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



photo courtesy of University Communications
Kenneth J. Martin won the Innovation Award for his work in "flipping the classroom."

Backers, Builders, Founders, and 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

We very much hope that you will give special consideration to our request. You may respond by email to mhohnstr@nmsu.edu indicating your desire to participate in one of these categories. We will follow up by sending you a payroll deduction form.

A note of appreciation from participant, Manal Hamzeh:

*I would not have been honored with the **Christmore Teaching Award** without the Teaching Academy's passionate commitment to the pedagogical growth of NMSU's faculty. Thank you.*

What People Are Saying About the Teaching Academy

"I received a perfect score on a student survey from one of my most challenging classes."

"My developmental math pass rates went from about 70% to over 90%."

"The ADVANCE program definitely helped me to learn about leadership and realizing my potential to contribute to my department, college, university and my profession."

