President's Awards
for Excellence in Teaching

The President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching recognize faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to teaching. This year there are six awards. Since 1977, 255 Wayne State University faculty members have been recognized for their teaching with these awards.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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School of Medicine

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Department of Marketing
Mike Ilitch School of Business

RECIPIENTS

KATHERYN MAGUIRE
Assistant Professor
Department of Communication
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Professor Kathryn C. Maguire is a highly enthusiastic teacher with high expectations of her students. She translates communication concepts and research to make course material more accessible and appealing to her students. As an educator, she connects to students’ lives with her exuberance for teaching. Her colleagues say she is one of the most successful instructors in the Department of Communication and that she exudes passion in her teaching and demands a lot from her students. Her assignments demand that students integrate and reflect on theory, personal experience and practice. Professor Maguire is a dynamic and innovative professor who truly appreciates and understands the challenges and opportunities offered in teaching the diverse student body at Wayne State University. Students say Professor Maguire is honest in her passion for teaching, one of a kind, and she changes lives and mindsets. She is known among the students as a human encyclopedia of communication studies. Professor Maguire is the perfect candidate for the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

NADJEIDA MARINNOVA
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Nadjeida Marinova is an extraordinary teacher who employs creative approaches to make her subject matter accessible and engaging. She uses technology effectively in her courses by constructing course websites and producing multimedia presentations. She serves enthusiastically as a mentor to students by engaging them in her research and teaching, thereby producing a safe and productive learning environment. In her classroom teaching, she empowers students to be the best learners they can be and inspires trust in them to work independently and collaboratively. She invests time into perfecting her teaching through various teaching techniques so that she can make complex information digestible and convey competing interpretations in a fair-minded manner. Her presentations are well-grounded. She is dynamic and dedicated to teaching and learning. She supports her teaching by regularly presenting papers at academic conferences in the U.S. and abroad, as her work has been well received by specialists in her field. For all these reasons, Professor Marinova is well-deserving of the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

KAREN PRALL
Lecturer
Maggie Alleene Department of Theatre and Dance
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Lecturer Karen Prall's devotion to the world of African dance and culture is exceeded only by her commitment to her students in the classroom, the studio, and during performances on and off campus. Ms. Prall introduced studio courses in beginning and intermediate African dance and is the founding artistic director of the WSU African dance company known as To Sanga. She structures her classes to provide students an appreciation and understanding of African culture, music, dance, songs and everyday life. Although many of the concepts in her classes apply widely to the continent of Africa, she also introduces dance styles and concepts drawn from the African Diaspora. Over the years, she has traveled across the globe to study and learn new dance styles, songs, rhythms, stories and approaches to teaching African dance. Students commend Ms. Prall for her dedication to her craft, patience with students of all backgrounds, and inspirational enthusiasm. Students also note that her passion for African dance motivates them to explore these dance forms. In all of her activities, Ms. Prall exemplifies an embodiment of the inclusive excellence the university strives to foster.

DONNIE SACKET
Assistant Professor
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Donnie Sacket is an immensely talented and innovative teacher who has made a lasting impact on teaching English at Wayne State University. Students often emphasize Professor Sacket's passion for the subjects he teaches, as well as his ability to help students overcome challenges in their ability to learn the material. Students quite frequently mention Professor Sacket's classes as among the best they have taken at Wayne State and that he brings an unique blend of facility with document design, understanding of the demands of writing pedagogy, and passion for engagement with the real world to his teaching. His students have stated that he sparks enthusiasm and stimulates consideration of why lessons in document design and layout matter beyond the lessons learned in the classroom. His colleagues also admire his professionalism and perspective as an instructor and believe he is an exemplary model for those in his department and college.