

McPherson
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS

2011

McPherson Distinguished Teaching Awards

Napa Valley Vintners' Teaching Winery

May 13, 2011

The McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 1987 to recognize excellence in teaching at Napa Valley College. The 2011 program is sponsored by the McPherson-West Fund of the Napa Valley College Foundation and Office of Instruction. Nominations are submitted from peers, students, and other members of the college community. The selection is made by a committee. Each recipient is awarded a plaque and a \$1,000 check.

The faculty are honored for comprehensive knowledge of subject matter, stimulation of student thought and interest, use of innovative, effective teaching techniques, continuing helpfulness to and personal interest in students, ability to relate and apply knowledge to other disciplines, significant contributions to developing the instructional program and outstanding commitment to quality.



NVC President Dr. Bill Feddersen, Dr. George Hagen, Dolores Fischer and Dr. Harry McPherson at the first awards ceremony in 1987.

Excellence in Education

1987

Dr. George Hagen
Dolores Fischer

1988

John Charlesworth
William Blair

1989

Ernest Abbott
Dr. Chris Burditt

1990

Janet Gonzalez-
Mena
Barbara Klemenok-
Rasmussen



Former honorees and the 2010 McPherson Distinguished Teachers gathered for a photo after the presentation. The 2010 reception and ceremony was held at the Napa Valley Vintners' Teaching Winery.

1991

Richard Bremer
Sylvia Mastroyan-
nakis

1992

Dr. Roberto Juan
Gonzalez
Jean Schroeder*

1993

Gwynne Pacheco
John Langenbach*

1994

Dr. Stephen Krebs
Dr. Charles Ray

1995

Carolyn
Fruchtenicht
Christy Kling

1996

Mignon Stephen-
son Graham
Robert Chudnofsky

1997

Peter Wright
Emily Cosby

1998

Gary Vann
Jerry Somerville

1999

Carole Kent
Kate Benscoter

2000

Anne Evans
Helen Ortega

2001

Dr. Melody
Seymour
Lauralyn Bauer

2002

Carole
Chassereau, R.N.
Nick Anast

2003

Lauren Coodley
Jeff Omodt

2004

Linda Simpson

2005

Laura Ecklin
Bill Fried

2006

Noreen Martin
Denise Rosselli

2007

Dianna Chiabotti
Rebecca Scott

2008

Ann Gross
Sable Howard
Hughes

2009

Michael Conroy
Dr. Linda Napholz

2010

Shawna Bynum
Dr. Nadine Wade-
Gravett

*Deceased



Armond Phillips, who was then interim college president, is pictured with the 2010 McPherson Distinguished Teachers Shawna Bynum and Dr. Nadine Wade-Gravett, and Sue Nelson, vice president of Instruction.

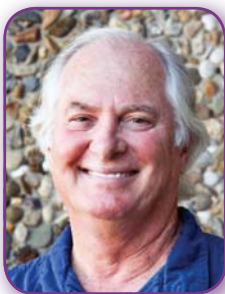
Professor Rick Donohoe

Prof. Rick Donohoe has been named 2011 McPherson Distinguished Teacher at Napa Valley College.

Described as a “dedicated and passionate educator who is committed to and sincerely interested in the success of his students,” Rick is credited with improving the quality of History instruction at the college. “He uses a variety of teaching methods to ensure that he reaches all his students,” said one nomination. “His teaching techniques are innovative, interactive, and effective and he goes far beyond what is required to assist his students any way he can.”

The totality of his contributions to the college and positive student feedback were acknowledged. The nomination also noted his work ethic and professionalism. Rick was recognized for his contributions to the Social Science division. He is a former division chair.

Rick started teaching at Napa Valley College in 1991. His previous work with Phi Theta Kappa, the college honor society, and current volunteer efforts on behalf of the Puente Program were noted. His seven years of work was instrumental in those early years



of Phi Theta Kappa; a foundation of excellence that continues today. Now a Puente mentor, “his commitment as a role model speaks to his desire to help students beyond the classroom experience.”

For 10 years he was involved in the Great Teachers Seminar in Santa Barbara. Rick and Debbie Saunders provided leadership to the Teaching and Learning Institute on campus. He has also provided other leadership on campus, serving at various times as a vice president of both the Academic Senate and Faculty Union.

Rick earned his A.A. from Cabrillo College in Liberal Arts; B.A. from Stanford in Political Science, and his M.A. in Latin American History from State University of New York, Stony Brook. He also earned a teaching credential from Cal Poly and started his teaching career teaching high school in Santa Barbara and in Tehama County. Prior to coming to Napa Valley College, he taught at Shasta College.

“I believe the time has come to formally acknowledge Rick’s contributions to the lives of students and our campus,” said a colleague. The selection committee agreed.

Acknowledgements

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