

The  
**Faculty Excellence Award in Advising**  
recognizes a faculty advisor who embodies the qualities of effective and caring concern  
for student academic progress. This award is  
presented to

**JoDee Keller**  
**Associate Professor of Social Work**

In the 22 years that Professor JoDee Keller has been in our Social Work program, the program has graduated 255 students. The Director of the program reports that JoDee has advised 199 of them.

A former student, now employed in the field of Social Work, writes “of all the things that she has given me...the greatest gift she has bestowed...is the inspiration I feel to make my slice of the world a better place.” A colleague writes how JoDee’s advising inspired one particular student to “strive for excellence and entertain new opportunities that she might not have pursued otherwise. This student was a first-generation college student who overcame multiple challenges to enter college, graduated from PLU, and entered one of the best graduate schools in the nation.”

Another colleague writes that “as students navigate life and career decisions, JoDee serves as a trusted guide and an outstanding listener. In so doing, she models for students how they can analyze complex issues and contexts and make their most informed decision. Such work by Dr. Keller embodies academic advising at its very best.”

There is a certain technical capacity and expertise that all good advisors bring to the service of their students, but the great advisors bring what JoDee Keller brings: “a warmth and genuine regard for her students”; “a compassion and willingness to listen”; and how “she models for her students what it means to be a social worker”. These are the words of her students and colleagues.

For her exceptional dedication, skill, and vision as an academic advisor, Pacific Lutheran University bestows on JoDee Keller the 2011-2012  
Faculty Excellence Award for Advising.