

The
Faculty Excellence Award in Service
is meant to recognize a faculty member who demonstrates academic leadership and who influences the life of the university through service in areas of faculty governance, the university generally, our academic community, and the community and profession beyond the university. This award is presented to

Erin McKenna
Professor of Philosophy

To list the organizations, committees, task forces, and all the various means by which Erin McKenna has served this university for nearly 20 years would be, almost literally, to recount every possible avenue available to a member of the faculty. Of particular note was her service as faculty chair in 2006-2008, during which time she marshaled a significant reform in our general education program through our governance system, and did so with a lightness of touch and, ultimately, a unanimous endorsement by the Faculty Assembly.

Erin's service to her academic community is as much devoted to improving the scholarship of her colleagues through reviews and commentaries as it is in advancing her own contributions to the American Philosophical Association or the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy – two of the professional organizations to which she belongs and whose presidents have invited her to serve at the highest levels of those associations. She has served on the editorial boards of two professional journals.

A junior colleague in another department writes how Erin is “an inspiration to other faculty...providing a model of what an involved, passionate, committed faculty member should be.” Of the literally dozens of things one could mention, Erin's current service to the Environmental Studies Program is exemplary, for here you see it all come together – her service to an interdisciplinary program, her passionate contributions to teaching and scholarship, and her work on the philosophy and ethics of human interactions with animals – a commitment that is not just part of her professional field of study, but is a part of who she is as a person.

For her exemplary service to the university and to her profession as an educator, Pacific Lutheran University bestows on Erin McKenna the 2011-2012 Faculty Excellence Award for Service.

