The Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring recognizes the efforts of a faculty member who serves as a personal or professional guide to students or colleagues, and who makes a profound difference in the lives of others as a role model, confidant, critic, friend, or co-learner. This award is presented to

Edwin Powell  
Associate Professor of Music

The many student success stories and his ongoing contributions to our music program and to the recruitment of new students are those things for which Ed Powell is best known to most of us, but it is the special effort that Ed makes to reach out to those students who seem to be struggling or who need special mentoring that bring this honor today. A colleague writes of how he brings “the highest levels of professionalism, inspiration, enthusiasm and communication” to his daily work with his students. Perhaps most compelling among the materials in support of this nomination were those letters from former students who are now pursuing their careers: they spoke of “how he was instrumental in helping me land my first full-time job”, or “how he truly cared about not only my academic life but also my general wellbeing”; or “how he was one of the most influential, committed and inspiring figures in my life.” One student sums it best: “He is the type of educator that students work hard to please, because when our best wasn’t good enough, our best always got better.”

For the profound difference he makes in the lives of his students and colleagues, we offer our congratulations to Ed Powell.

On behalf of the Faculty of Pacific Lutheran University, we offer our congratulations to Edwin Powell on being the 2014-2015 recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award for Mentoring.

The Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring was established by a gift from Tom Carlson, Professor of Biology, and honors Art Gee, Professor Emeritus of Biology who excelled as a mentor to colleagues and students in his many years of service on the PLU faculty.