

## *News Release*

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### **Presidents Council Announces Recipients of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Professor Award**

Lansing, Mich. —The fifth annual Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award recipients have been selected and four professors from Michigan's 15 public universities have earned this honor.

"Higher education is one of the few good investments in these hard economic times," said Michael Boulus, Executive Director of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, "We need to honor those who continue to contribute to its success and produce well prepared and intelligent graduates of Michigan's 15 public universities. These outstanding professors are actively involved in developing the minds of Michigan's future, and deserve recognition for their work."

The Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year recognition program recognizes the outstanding contributions made by the faculty from Michigan's public universities to the education of undergraduate students. Each of Michigan's 15 public universities were invited by the Presidents Council to nominate a faculty member who has had a significant impact on student learning through various mediums, including work in the classroom and student advising. The 2011 recipients are:

- **Dr. Robert S. Winning (Eastern Michigan University)**, Department of Biology, approaches his work with innovation, thoughtful engagement, and effective incorporation of technology. Dr. Winning was the 2009 recipient of the EMU Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award in teaching and has made significant impact on student learning in and out of the classroom. From curriculum development to service to the university community, he is committed to serving all students who seek guidance, mentoring, and career development.
- **Dr. Paul Kelso (Lake Superior State University)**, Department of Geology and Physics, places an emphasis on active learning and constructivist-based teaching methods. With special attention to real-life issues and research experiences, Dr. Kelso aims to better prepare students for active roles in graduate programs and professional situations. Communication skill development and problem-based learning activities highlight Dr. Kelso's dedication to developing confident geoscientists.
- **Dr. Robert LaDuca, Jr. (Michigan State University)**, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Chemistry, approaches undergraduate learning by creating a fun, enthusiastic, and interactive environment for intense scientific development and inquiry in chemistry. Blending hands-on experience with digital engagement, Dr. LaDuca finds numerous ways to engage undergraduates in their studies through high out-of-class accessibility, research opportunities, and mentoring relationships. He has published over 130 scientific articles with undergraduate co-authors on inorganic/organic hybrid materials. Dr. LaDuca is also the recipient of Michigan State University's 2010 Mid-Michigan Alumni Club Quality in Undergraduate Teaching Award.
- **Dr. Gopalan Srinivasan (Oakland University)**, Department of Physics, uses research involvement as a core component in undergraduate teaching and learning. Through on the job experiences, students develop a stronger understanding of practical issues while further developing the ability to ask critical questions. This significant collaboration with undergraduate students offers a consistent, meaningful dedication to undergraduate learning through mentoring and scholarly development.

The Presidents Council will host an awards luncheon on May 12, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, Mich.