

Nomination Application:
**Chancellor's Award for Excellence
to a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member**

Nominee:

Kenneth E. Owen, Ed.D.
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College of Education
Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Department of K-12 Education Administration
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Nominator:

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June 20, 2008

Chancellor's Award for Excellence Committee
Non-Tenure Track Faculty
Campus

Dear Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure I submit this nomination letter and packet on behalf of Dr. Kenneth (Ken) Owen, Associate Teaching Professor in the Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELAPS), for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence to a Non-Tenure Faculty Member for his teaching. Contents of the packet include:

- *Nomination letter
- * Ken Owen's CV
- *Ken Owen's Statement of Philosophy
- *Ken Owen's Accomplishments and Teaching-Related Activities
- *Letter of Support from the Dean of the College of Education, Charles Schmitz, PhD
- *Letters of Support from Faculty
- *Letters of Support from Students

Three ELAPS K-12 Education Administration faculty members who have worked closely with Ken have written support letters. Students who were enrolled in one of Dr. Ken Owen's classes were identified and randomly selected and asked to write a letter of support on his behalf based on his teaching and assessment.

A review of this packet will demonstrate Dr. Owen has an approach to teaching that engages his students in the process of learning. His high standards and expectations for himself are no less than what he expects of his students. He also uses innovative and effective teaching strategies which enrich his students' learning. Additionally, he demonstrates a commitment to improving his teaching to further enhance the students' learning experience. I hope that once the committee reviews his packet, it will see why I strongly believe Dr. Ken Owen is deserving of such an honor as the awarding of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence to a Non-Tenure Faculty Member.

Dr. Owen joined the ELAPS faculty in August 2000 after 30 years in education. His positions included teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of secondary education, assistant and associate superintendent, and superintendent of schools. In addition, a review of his resume indicates he has had some higher education teaching experience before coming to UMSL.

Dr. Owen's experience has also included extensive work in research, curriculum, instruction and program design. He has worked closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the areas of curriculum development, contextual teaching and learning, the A+ Schools Program, tech-prep comprehensive high schools, vocational and career education, and developmental reading programs for K-8 instruction. As a result of his work with DESE, he serves as a liaison between the ELAPS Division and DESE. As such, he keeps us informed about new policies, standards, and guidelines, which enable us to better serve our students.

As a colleague since 2000 and Chair of ELAPS for the past two years, I have noticed Ken's dedication to his students, and his sincere concern for our Division, the COE, and UM-St. Louis. In addition, I've noticed his commitment to education administration. Dr. Owen has been a dedicated faculty member since his arrival to UM-St. Louis. Personally, he is a reliable and devoted colleague. Professionally, he has worked tirelessly to prepare students for administrative positions. I've always admired the fact that every term Ken drives 80 miles one way to teach his classes and even more to observe his interns. Regardless of the weather, I can count on Ken to be available for his students. Whenever I have called upon him to assist me with a project, he has never hesitated to do so. Because of his attention to detail and genuine concern for students, Ken is often sought out by students to serve as their advisor. He helps any student who asks for it. This explains why he has more advisees than any other faculty member in our Division.

Dr. Owen's work in the area of teaching has been phenomenal. His professional background and prior teaching before joining UM-St. Louis faculty ranks have prepared him to address educational administration in a very practical, applied context, while relating the need to develop a strong foundational philosophy of education. As a result of his belief in the nexus of theory and practice, it is important that his students not only understand the theories, but also apply them to practical situations. This is significant for his students as many currently serve or have aspirations of serving as educational leaders. Using real-life school situations enables students to prepare for realistic situations in their classroom, school, or district. His strategies have enabled him to earn the highest teacher evaluations of all faculty in the Division for several semesters. On a 1 to 5-point scale, with 5 being the highest, Dr. Owen consistently averages 4.94 and higher.

As you may know, each term students are asked to evaluate their instructor. When students from the fall 2007 term were asked to list positive elements of the course/instructor that enhanced their learning on teacher evaluations, they commented:

- Dr. Owen you are an excellent educational professor. You are very straight forward, honest, and funny. You have enhanced my learning in so many ways.

You and I solve problems alike. I have never met a professor who was always on the same page as myself. You are extremely knowledgeable about education. I would have loved working on your staff.

- Dr. Owen makes you think and reflect upon how to be an effective administrator. I enjoyed the class discussion and the insight from a professor that actually knows and is passionate about school, teaching, etc.
- 1) the sharing of ideas and information from instructor to student and student to student was very, very informative. 2) The portfolio helped me to start getting used to creating professional looking products for others to view.
- I appreciate the first hand knowledge or experiences shared by Dr. Owen. Open communication is offered to all students, this is very reassuring for students.
- 1) The autonomy to work freely and express ideas. 2) The opportunity to contact instructor for additional help the electronic textbook gives or serves as an excellent guide to follow.
- The instructor's expertise and willingness to help as well as his availability.
- This was the first course I took regarding middle school – it provided me with helpful information and resources so that I will be better prepared to work with students as they transition into high school. The fact that Dr. Owen has served in so many capacities in the educational system makes the class very interesting because he can offer so much info – from his personal experiences.
- Authentic instruction related to experiences at the middle school and/or in a middle school setting. Opportunities were provided that allowed me to practice and demonstrate appropriateness when handling school incidents.
- Lessons were beneficial and appropriate to use as administrators. Dr. Owen's experiences complemented with the assignments given extremely beneficial. Extremely knowledgeable of subject matter.
- This class opened my eyes to many administrative theories that I wasn't aware of and made me see why my past administrators were so successful. Assignment on ISLLC standards was beneficial to understanding important aspects of running a school.
- Dr. Owen brings very practical ideas and thoughts to classroom discussion which allows for applications in the school. Enjoyed classroom conversations and instructor sharing his experiences in administration.
- Dr. Owen makes class discussion vital to my everyday job. Dr. Owen has so much information to share – he has walked the walk & talked the talk.

- I enjoyed Dr. Owen's insight & "real life" situations the he brings to his class. He has the ability to teach with his stories.
- I learned a lot about school finance and feel that I have a better understanding as an educator what it takes to run a district financially as well as a citizen in the community and my understanding of things that my local district does and what to look out for when they are asking for a tax increase.
- Dr. Owen shares his past experiences to help put lesson objectives into perspective. He is also very caring about the success of each students.
- Dr. Owen told us stories that enhanced the lessons & helped us remember the concepts. The scenarios discussed reinforced our learning & helped us prepare for the principle's test.
- This course made me much more aware of the amendments and laws that affect schools and school districts. The cases we read and learned about were very interesting.
- Extensive knowledge of subject matter presented in effective manner. Instructor's vast experiences complimented concepts and facilitated understanding.
- 1) Very knowledgeable on subject – able to provide practical apps. 2) Allows for meaningful & open discussions

Based on the aforementioned student comments, Dr. Owen's teaching abilities are apparent. He knows how to use a variety of instructional techniques such as case studies, small and large group discussions, stories, role play, mentoring, and self-directed learning. However, he does not accept complacency. Hence, he is always seeking new ways to improve his instructional modalities and develop opportunities for students to excel and enhance their learning experience. As such, whenever we provide instructional workshops within our Division, I know Ken will be there. In addition, he attends other instructional and technological seminars throughout the year. Hence, he willingly steps out of his comfort zone and has used the information gained to teach ITV and hybrid (a combination of online and face-to-face) courses. Even though he is still "mastering" new teaching technologies, he stills receives the highest teacher evaluation means. In addition, he keeps abreast of the latest trends and research not only in Missouri, but nation wide.

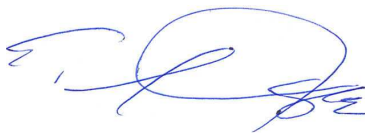
Dr. Owen epitomizes what it means to be a student-oriented instructor. He understands that teaching is not simply having students regurgitate what they learn. As he states in his philosophy, he is not just concerned with the knowledge students gain, he also considers "how the teaching process affects students at all levels of academic development." He realizes that students need foundational as well as practical knowledge in order to be successful in their current and future professional roles. Thus, his techniques for merging theory and practice gives students the foundational background they need and equips them for future real-life experiences they may encounter in their respective work setting. Hence, he makes learning relevant for his students. There is no doubt in my mind that they are receiving a rich learning experience.

In addition to his exemplary teaching, Dr. Owen provides service to the University and community. He gives service to his colleagues in the form of certificate training, and serving as K-12 facilitator. The K-12 facilitator is an elected position and duties include planning and conducting K-12 area meetings and serving as liaison between the faculty and the chairperson. In addition, he has served as our liaison with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He is currently working with three school districts in the St. Louis area to assist them in their efforts to improve curriculum development and implementation, effective teaching, and improvement of teacher/administration, evaluation techniques. He has completely redesigned the portfolio process for the internship program in Educational Administration, which allows students to obtain a richer hands-on experience.

Dr. Owen is not one to ask for recognition for something he loves doing and believes in. He, undoubtedly, loves teaching. However, I know receiving the Chancellor's Award for Excellence for a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member is something he deserves and would humbly accept. And while he needs no accolades to continue being the best educator he can be, this award would be a testament to his dedication and commitment to his craft, the Division, College of Education, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Based on Dr. Owen's work with students, his teacher evaluations, commitment to higher education in general, and letters of support in this packet, it is without hesitation I recommend he receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence for a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member. If I can answer any questions on his behalf, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Dr. E. Paulette Isaac-Savage
Chair and Associate Professor

**Statement of Teaching Philosophy,
Goals, Strategies, Methods, and Outcomes**

Philosophy

My philosophy of teaching is characterized by what I consider to be a blend of educational research, theory, and practical application. I believe teaching in its truest sense must combine a vision that includes contrasting the transactional (transfer of knowledge) and the transformational (creation of knowledge). My philosophical principles include creating challenges for students to immerse themselves in past research, presenting opportunities for students to implement best practices of current trends, and encouraging all students to develop innovative approaches to address their students' future needs. I believe my primary role in this endeavor is to provide avenues for students to expand their knowledge and understanding and to combine their knowledge base with past experiences to take their teaching and leadership abilities to a higher level. I believe there must be a sincere concern for how the teaching process affects students at all levels of academic development. This concern will lead to the creation of a vision which encompasses educational endeavors that create a partnership between the school and the community. This vision embraces high ethical and moral standards, establishes a learning community, nurtures a positive learning environment, and takes into account both formal and informal forces that impact education. Finally, I believe teaching must, through curriculum and instructional analysis and design, implement strategies that create the balance between theory and application.

Personal Teaching Goals

My personal teaching goals include: (1) attending every class meeting well prepared to share, listen, facilitate and moderate discussions concerning timely issues in teaching, learning, and education administration; (2) being viewed by my students as a genuinely caring instructor who is energetic, experienced, and excited about being a teacher; (3) assisting my students to mature academically, socially, culturally, and ethically; (4) staying abreast of current research in education and to provide opportunities for students to focus on critical inquiry in all class endeavors; and (5) implementing the use of technology to enhance the teaching/learning process by expanding the utilization of cooperative learning activities, off-campus instruction, ITV, and on-line teaching.

Career Teaching Goals

My career teaching goals include: (1) preparing students to become highly effective leaders in their educational endeavors; (2) preparing students to participate fully in the educational, social, and political life of the society in which they live; (3) demonstrating a commitment to assisting students in becoming positive citizens in a diverse, democratic society; (4) demonstrating actions and decision-making process skills that model fairness and integrity; (5) assisting students in understanding the premise that the practice and study of education policy for teachers and administrators is grounded in historically situated social, economic, political, and legal contexts; and (6) instilling in my students the importance of demonstrating an understanding of the local, state, and national trends in education in such a way to allow them to maximize the benefits of that knowledge to their students.

Strategies for Effective Teaching

For the purpose of addressing this topic, I am defining “strategies” as the teaching action we utilize to achieve expected outcomes. Therefore, realizing that all students learn at different rates and with different teaching styles, the strategies I utilize most often are: (1) problem-solving activities; (2) responding to and writing briefs related to scenarios and case studies; (3) lecture to introduce new topics; (4) teacher demonstration to provide clarity about a particular point of interest; (5) brainstorming activities; (6) student presentations dealing with topics deemed by researchers as best practices; (7) portfolio development consisting of research on a major project, gathering of artifacts, and relating the possible impact on education; (8) panel discussions; (9) student-lead discussions; and (10) graphic organization of information for data presentation.

Methods for Effective Teaching

For the purpose of addressing this topic, I am defining “methods” as the overall philosophical view of teaching, which determines how we arrive at expected outcomes. The methods I utilize most often are: (1) teacher-directed activities, which include those that are delivered by the instructor; (2) student-directed activities (i.e., individual or small groups); (3) cooperative learning activities—allowing students to work in groups and then present their findings to other class members; (4) on-line instruction—allowing students to be more involved in research and data interpretation; (5) ITV (instructional television) delivery—allowing more convenience for the student while also strengthening technology skills; (6) discovery learning—allowing more opportunity for students to work independently on topics where they have little or no prior knowledge; (7) role-playing activities where students and instructor engage in acting out a scenario in an attempt to allow for better understanding of a concept or situation; (8) elaboration activities, where students are asked to elaborate on a particular topic or situation they

have experienced; and (9) throughout each semester, students are required to relate all learning to the six ISLLC (Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium) Standards – this requires not only knowledge and understanding, but also focuses on the application of learning.

Outcomes of Effective Teaching

My goal for the students I teach is that they will be able to progress from having information about a topic, to having knowledge about the topic, to having an understanding of the implications of the topic on education, to being able to apply the information, knowledge, and understanding they have gained in order to prepare them to be better teachers and administrators. With this premise in mind, my students are expected to be able to apply what they have learned in the following ways: (1) effectively collecting and analyzing data from multiple sources, and data analysis strategies; (2) building effective communications; (3) improving consensus-building skills; (4) applying learning goals in a pluralistic society; (5) applying learning and motivational theories; (6) establishing their own principles of effective instruction; (7) addressing measurement, evaluation, and assessment strategies; (8) studying research related to adult learning and professional development models; (9) understanding the importance of helping to create a positive school culture; (10) exploring the importance of effective human resource management and development; (11) understanding the purpose of education and the role of leadership in a modern society; (12) emphasizing the necessity for a professional code of ethics; (13) developing the vocabulary necessary to discuss the political and operational dimensions of each of the subjects I teach; (14) demonstrating an understanding of the processes involved in teaching and learning; (15) developing an awareness of the nature of teaching and supervising; and (16) developing an understanding of several approaches to the subject being studied, including, but not limited to, historical studies, strategic planning

activities, utilization of the expertise of other professionals, and local, state, and federal mandated requirements.

Accomplishments and Teaching-Related Activities

Below is a list of my personal accomplishments, university activities, and community service activities.

Personal Accomplishments:

- During the past 15 semesters of teaching, I have been evaluated by my students with an average evaluation of 4.94 on a 5.00 scale, which translates to 99% in the highest category of “outstanding”
- Selected as the recipient of the 2004 “Outstanding Faculty Award” in the College of Education
- Recently elected by the K-12 faculty to serve as the K-12 Facilitator for 2008 through 2010 – responsibilities include arranging and conducting departmental meetings, and serving as liaison between the faculty and the chairperson on departmental issues

University Service Activities:

- Creation and supervision of an off-campus graduate program at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, MO
- Serving as a professor in the Urban Leaders III Program, sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Urban Education, supervised by Dr. Lynn Beckwith
- Serving as professor through continuing education at several off-campus sites including Lindbergh, Mineral Area, Clyde Miller Academy, Gateway, Jefferson College, and St. Charles
- Incorporating on-line instruction in each of the 10 classes taught per year (four classes in spring and fall and two each summer)
- Supervising a minimum of 10 internships per semester, which involves class time and on-site visits to each of the schools working cooperatively with the interns

- Supervising a minimum of five independent studies per semester for students needing courses not offered during the semester to meet graduation or certification requirements
- Teaching at least one ITV course during the spring and fall semesters at St. Charles and/or Mineral Area College
- Served as the University Facilitator for a visiting team of school administrators from Indonesia in 2006 – was responsible for arranging and moderating on-site visits and on-campus conferences with 10 “highly effective” schools within St. Louis city and county
- Providing training regarding DESE’s requirements for certification, necessary completion of forms, etc. to new faculty and staff
- Co-sponsored, with Dr. Peggy Dolan, a complete revision of the portfolio process utilized by the K-12 department for administrative certification
- Performed on-site evaluations of 28 school districts in Missouri for DESE – evaluation was designed to determine their effectiveness in meeting state recommendations for implementation of contextual teaching and learning activities
- Working closely with Dr. Dixie Kohn in developing a graduate program in education administration at the Wildwood campus in Chesterfield, MO
- Serving as the K-12 coordinator/liaison with DESE on all certification issues related to principal, middle school, and superintendent certification
- Advising over 100 graduate students per year (the most in the division)
- Serving on a minimum of three to five doctoral committees per year
- Member of the NCATE College of Education Accreditation Committee and the UM-St. Louis Action Plan Committee

Community Service Activities:

- Serve on the ITAT (Instructional Technical Assistance Team) in the Normandy School District Partnership designed to improve the effectiveness of the teacher/administrator evaluation process
- Co-sponsored, with Dr. Peggy Dolan, the Principal's Luncheon Series which provided workshops and conferences on the UM-St. Louis campus for aspiring administrators in the St. Louis and surrounding areas
- Serving on the Urban Schools Committee to prepare strategies to address the challenges facing the St. Louis School District
- Facilitating July 2008, the first annual School Law Seminar at UM-St. Louis – the purpose of the seminar, sponsored by the College of Education and Tueth & Keeney Law Firm of St. Louis, is to bring an estimated 350 school administrators together to discuss current legal trends and changes in the law that will directly impact Missouri school districts



**OFFICE OF THE DEAN
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One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4499 USA**

June 24, 2008

Chancellor's Award for Excellence Committee
Non-Tenure Track Faculty
Campus

Dear Award Committee Members:

This letter of recommendation is being written on behalf of Dr. Kenneth Owen, a nominee for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence to a Non-Tenure Faculty Member. He has been a member of our faculty since 2000.

We were fortunate to have Kenneth Owen join our faculty as he brought over 25 years of K-12 experience in teaching and administration. He also taught at several colleges and universities in the State of Missouri before joining us. His prior teaching experience as well as his tenure in the K-12 arena has enabled him to hone his teaching abilities to serve the students here, at UM-St. Louis. As outlined in his curriculum vitae, his areas of expertise are extensive; hence, he is able to teach a variety of courses. He is able to share his knowledge in a way that is relevant and practical for his students. This explains why he receives high teacher evaluation ratings every semester.

His teaching strategies and methods have earned him positive recognition. During the 2003-2004 Academic Year he received the College of Education Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award. This award is given to NTT faculty who are judged by their divisional chair as having had the most exemplary performance in the division for the preceding year in the areas of teaching and service. He is an outstanding professor every year based on his teacher evaluations and annual reviews by his Division Chair.

At the University level, he serves on COE and ELAPS Planning Committees, co-sponsored a Principal's Luncheon Series, and is facilitating a School Law Seminar this summer for 350 school administrators around the state. Through his many efforts, we have been able to attract several students to our graduate education programs.

Ken is reliable and follows through on tasks that he is assigned. He is committed to the University and in particular the students. I can count on him to attend meetings and serve on ad hoc committees whenever needed. He is a team player and his interest in students is manifested through his evaluations. He has an excellent relationship with colleagues, and a personality that

allows him to have fun, but get the job done as well. With that said, it is without reservation that I recommend him for this most prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Schmitz, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM FACULTY

June, 2008

Attention: Chancellor's Award for Excellence
To a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member

This letter serves as affirmation for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence to a Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member to be awarded to Dr. Kenneth E. Owen, Ed.D. Having worked with him since Fall of 2001 in the Department of K-12 Education Administration, I have been able to take part in several projects and teaching assignments with Dr. Owen. I am most impressed with his presentations during our Administration Intern Seminars. With a confident manner he communicates an expectation of excellence and then provides the very framework by which the interns can have the best possible experience and perform at an excellent standard. As he shares with students his experiences as a superintendent you get the sense of a superintendent who actually liked the job. As students ask questions of Dr. Owen, the superintendent, and Dr. Owen the teacher, students get a reality check on what it is to be a leader of education administration in today's world. His personable and friendly manner is a consistent communication strength that is an asset to the Education Administration, k-12 Department.

In each of Dr. Owen's classes, he shares willingly with students in Education Administration the theories and philosophies of educational leadership. He has a keen ability to teach the University of Missouri graduate student how to best transfer these theories and philosophies into positive and useful actions that result in optimal learning success for the students we serve in the twenty-first century. Dr. Owen's professional demeanor serves as an exemplary role model to students and staff, setting the tone for the high expectations he has for students. In setting high expectations for students, he then engages them in "real time" scenarios, case studies and role plays that an administrator may encounter. He equips the students with the tools that they will employ in facing the variety of challenges in schools today. His expertise in organizational management, communication and problem solving are a consistent component of his teaching style. After taking Dr. Owen's school finance class a student remarked, "Now I know what is expected of me as a superintendent in finance, he said I would get it and I have." In my first years here, he shared his lesson plans so that I could be better prepared. He willingly mentors new staff members and adjuncts to our Ed Admin K-12 Program keeping our vision and mission in focus.

Dr. Owen has set the standard in our department on how to advise the graduate student to become certified for administrative positions in school districts. He communicates consistently with DESE so that our department is providing the necessary courses in the administration field. I was able to benefit first hand as he taught me the advising and certification process. In working with Dr. Owen, I am always amazed at how he can keep an eye on what will be needed in the future. This applies to his work in offering courses off campuses and working to build enrollment in our program. With a concern for principals and superintendents already in the field, he has spearheaded the workshops for principals and superintendents in the summer, with this year's offering being Legal Issues in Education Administration.

I am honored to work with Dr. Owen, and have learned from him how to teach the value of excellence in teaching...work at being excellent in what you do each day and do your best in getting the job done.

Sincere regards,

Dr. Margaret R. Dolan



June 4, 2008

Chancellor's Award for Excellence Committee
Non-Tenure Track Faculty
Campus

Dear Award Committee Members:

This letter is being written to support the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Owen for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence to a Non-Tenure Track Faculty. During the seven years in which I was chair of the Division where Dr. Owen worked, he consistently received the most outstanding teaching evaluations in the Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Students think highly of Dr. Owen and often choose to come to UM-St. Louis because of his reputation as a highly effective professor.

His attributes include, but are not limited to, his preparation of students to become effective leaders in their schools; his commitment to assist students to become better citizens in a diverse and democratic society; and his willingness to help students become better decision makers. In addition he models fairness and integrity while helping students understand local, state, and national trends in education.

Dr. Owen is well respected by the faculty and handles all superintendent certification for the K12 area. He serves on numerous doctoral committees each year and is willing to offer numerous independent studies to students who need them for graduation. He goes above and beyond for all students. I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Dr. Owen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Murphy".

Carole Murphy
Associate Professor of Education

Creating the **21st** Century College of Education

AN **NCATE** ACCREDITED INSTITUTION

an equal opportunity institution

June 19, 2008

To the Nomination Committee
Chancellor's Award for Excellence
Non -Tenure Track Faculty Member

Dear Nomination Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Dr. Ken Owen for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Non-Tenure Track Faculty. I have known Dr. Owen as a fellow faculty member in the Division of Education Leadership and Policy Studies since the year 2000. Since that time I have been impressed by his background knowledge and experiences as a former principal, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent and superintendent of schools in the Bonne Terre School District. Dr. Owen has brought his experiences to bear in teaching 15 different educational administration courses at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as well as directing the K-12 and central office internship program in the Division.

Dr. Owen carries a heavy teaching load each semester. However he does it in an effective and efficient manner. In interacting with graduate students in the Division, students voluntarily share with me that they believe that Dr. Owen is an excellent teacher and combines the teaching of theory and practice in a way that it is meaningful and relevant. Dr. Owen also has a heavy advisee load that is above that of most faculty members in the Division. He willingly accepts additional advisees because he believes in helping students who are in need of help.

Dr. Owen also willingly shares his expertise with fellow faculty members. When I have a question that I need answered concerning Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certification requirements, Dr. Owen is the person I ask to be assured that I receive the correct answer. That is an example of the supreme confidence I place in his background knowledge.

Dr. Owens willingly has accepted additional assignments from the chair of the Division. He recently was unanimously approved by the K-12 faculty to serve as the K-12 coordinator for the 2008-2009 school year.

Dr. Owen has personally been responsible for recruiting a large number of graduate students to enroll in University of Missouri-St. Louis from Southeast Missouri. This has mainly been done through the Continuing Education Division. Dr. Owens lives in Bonne Terre, Missouri. It normally takes him approximately 2 hours to drive from his home to our campus. However, he is always here and he is always prompt.

Dr. Owen is well respected by present and former teachers, principals and central office

administrators. He represents the University of Missouri-St. Louis in a very positive manner. I am pleased to have had the pleasure of working with him. Therefore it is a pleasure to recommend him for this prestigious award without any reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Beckwith, Jr., Ed.D.
E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Urban Education