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Young Teacher Award Citation for Andrew Mast

Lawrence University

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Young Teacher Award

Andrew Mast, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Wind Studies

Andrew Mast, you came to Lawrence in 2004 as an Assistant Professor in the Conservatory of Music and Director of Bands. Before coming to Lawrence you had earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota before returning to the University of Iowa to complete a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

At Lawrence, you have taught many courses in a variety of areas and have led both the Lawrence Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band. You have also generously devoted time to teaching in Lawrence's Freshman Studies program. Your passion, enthusiasm and friendly approach have made you a very successful teacher and a valued member of the Lawrence community. Your students hold you in high regard both as a teacher and conductor. Your enthusiasm and passion for music and music-making, combined with your personal warmth are outstanding qualities. Your approachability, concern, and willingness to listen to suggestions have contributed to an extremely strong relationship between you and the students in your ensembles, and the respect that students have for you motivates them to work hard to validate the hope and faith you have shown them. Many students in your ensembles describe their experience as transformative, both musically and personally. You have also demonstrated your willingness to explore new ideas and approaches by commissioning a new work for the Wind Ensemble and creating collaborations that include dance, spoken poetry, and individual improvisation.

Ensembles under your direction have brought beautiful and exciting music to Lawrence and to the City of Appleton. On the national level, the high quality of your student ensembles was recently recognized by DownBeat magazine, which named the Lawrence Wind Ensemble as the nation's best in its classical group division, which encompasses chamber ensembles, bands and orchestras from around the country.

In honor of your teaching accomplishments, I am pleased to recognize you today with the 2009 Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Young Faculty Member at Lawrence.

Citation read by President Jill Beck at Commencement, 2009