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Excellent Teaching Award Citation for Marcia Bjornerud

Lawrence University

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2013 UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING
MARCIA BJORNERUD

You went to college wanting to be a linguist, but soon discovered a great passion for geophysics and turned that passion into a career as an earth scientist. At Miami University in Ohio you quickly became a revered teacher, able to fill your students with a love for the world of geology. In 1995, Lawrence recruited you away from Miami, and at Lawrence you have achieved great success as a teacher, often described by students as the best they have ever experienced. Students speak with great admiration about how you excite them to learn. One writes, “Marcia had a knack for pushing me beyond the edges of comprehension, and inspiring me to tackle tough questions.” Another says, “Students rave about Marcia. Everyone wants to take at least one class from her. Marcia-classes, as we call them, are always full.” Your teaching is powered by your devotion to the process of science, but you also weave the human connection into your teaching, helping students to see how earth science has meaning for their lives. You have a fine sense of humor and a great sense of humanity. There are not many faculty members who bring home-made grape jelly to class, but you are one of them. You make science memorable and meaningful to students immersed in your contagious excitement for your subject.

For your achievement in contributing so successfully to the education of our students, I am pleased to honor you today with the 2013 University Award for Excellent Teaching