

2015

Excellent Teaching Award Citation for Dane Richeson

Lawrence University

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2015 UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING

Dane Richeson

Since your arrival at Lawrence in 1984 as director of percussion studies, you have created a world-class program that has received praise from students, faculty and visitors to our campus. You are one of the exceptionally few percussionists conversant in the demanding intricacies of both Western classical and world music traditions.

Your consummate teaching has created a studio where your students are equally comfortable in an orchestra or a Ghanaian Ewe drumming and dancing ensemble. Just this year your studio won the Percussive Arts Society's award for the best World Music Ensemble and a Downbeat Award for Best Latin Jazz Performance. These are remarkable feats for an all-undergraduate program.

Your students have made such comments as, "I marvel at how lucky I am to have experienced being in this

program. The expectations are high, and that has made me accomplish more than I thought possible," and, "Dane is the best. He changed my whole outlook on music." One of your great strengths is the ability to see in each student the potential for excellence, no matter how undeveloped that potential at first. Through encouragement and insistence on high standards, you make that potential grow, and the result is the emergence of an outstanding performer. Whether teaching a Bernstein symphony, Brazilian samba, Cuban son, or Ewe drumming and dancing, you are clearly an inspiration to us all.

For your many contributions that have helped make Lawrence an outstanding institution of learning and performance, I am pleased to honor you today with the 2015 University Award for Excellent Teaching.

June 14, 2015