

2018

Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member Award Citation for Lavanya Proctor

Lawrence University

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2018 AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING
BY AN EARLY CAREER FACULTY MEMBER

Lavanya Proctor

Since coming to Lawrence in 2010, you have distinguished yourself as an energetic, enthusiastic teacher, known for creating a dynamic learning environment in which students feel both pushed to perform and deeply supported. While contributing to core courses like *Cultural Anthropology* and classes in research methods, you have also freshened the curriculum through courses on the *Anthropology of South Asia*, *Semiotics, Language and Culture*, and *Anthropology and New Media*, introducing students to fresh vistas in anthropology and whetting their appetite for further study.

Students consistently praise not only your high standards, but also your remarkable ability to remain open and deeply interested in their own contributions to course materials. Of *Anthropology and New Media*, for example, a student wrote, “It was one of the most interesting and well-done classes I’ve ever taken . . . Professor Proctor didn’t lecture—she interacted. Our

opinions were worthwhile, and discussions were in-depth and intriguing, and made me re-examine my own use of new media.” “Proctor always hits on the mark,” wrote another student in the same course. “You have to really work in her classes because she can always tell if something is a last minute effort, and that motivates students to think critically and do better the next time.”

Students describe your classes as “eye-opening,” and your feedback on their work as both “kind” and “helpful.” Your direct approach to helping students improve their writing is frequently singled out for appreciation; as one student put it, “I learned how to write more clearly, in a less pretentious/‘academic’ style.”

In honor of your accomplishments in the classroom, I am pleased to recognize you today with the 2018 Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member at Lawrence.

June 10, 2018