

2019

Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member Award Citation for Jose Encarnacion

Lawrence University

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2019 AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING
BY AN EARLY CAREER FACULTY MEMBER

José Encarnación

By long-standing practice and tradition, the Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member is given to an individual who has yet to receive tenure—typically, someone who has been teaching at Lawrence for fewer than six years. You are now in your fifth year of a tenure-track appointment—so far, so good. But as we know, your contributions to the musical life of our campus predate that appointment by many years. So this recognition of your accomplishments as one of the Conservatory's most admired and beloved teachers is, in one sense, long overdue.

You first came to Lawrence in 2002, right after receiving your Master's in Jazz and Contemporary Media from the Eastman School of Music. You returned to Rochester in 2005 and served for six years as the Director of Jazz and Band Ensembles at the city's School of the Arts. In 2011 you came back to Lawrence, first appointed as a lecturer and then, in 2014, as an assistant professor, with a focus on jazz and improvisational music. Your return has had a measurable effect: Since 2015, the excellence of

Lawrence's jazz program has been recognized by no less an authority than *DownBeat* magazine, which has presented the university with four awards in four years.

Your students describe you as “an incredible musician,” “an invaluable resource,” and, routinely, “one of the best teachers I've ever worked with.” “One of the most passionate, kindest teachers I have ever met,” observed one student. “A big part of my decision to come to Lawrence was for lessons with José,” wrote another. In the words of a third student, “not only is he the most approachable teacher I have ever met, but his incredible musical skills and knowledge never fail to inspire me.”

I cannot resist quoting one last student comment: “José is a beautiful human who is a wonderful teacher. Lawrence is lucky to have him.” I agree, and it gives me great satisfaction to acknowledge our luck by presenting you with the 2019 Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member.

June 2019