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Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member Award Citation for Jesus Gregorio Smith

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2022 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
BY AN EARLY CAREER FACULTY MEMBER

Jesús Gregorio Smith

Jesús, you arrived at Lawrence University in 2017, after years of academic training—undergraduate and graduate—spent entirely in Texas. Your colleagues and students in Ethnic Studies are eternally grateful for your willingness to make the jump to Northeast Wisconsin, a place very different from the Lone Star state, but one that, happily for us all, you have been content to call home.

The Ethnic Studies program at Lawrence when you arrived as its sole tenure-track faculty member was a small but mighty band of dedicated faculty. They were determined to build a program that, at the time, offered only a minor into a set of course offerings and a curricular presence that would be major, in every sense of the word. That dream is coming to pass, thanks in great part to your sterling contributions.

Colleagues praise how you have “forged ... a sense of belonging for students and colleagues alike and ... created spaces for sustained critical inquiry and scholarly investigation.” More than a few express profound appreciation for your “concerted mentorship

efforts,” which have included the organizing of “campus-wide events that initiate difficult but necessary conversations”—conversations that create conditions for honesty, connection, and community.

You are dedicated to your students, and it shows. “I have never had a professor who puts so much time into office hours,” one student notes. Observes another, “he never accepted a simple answer to a question and pushed all of us to think harder and more complexly about topics for our papers, but he was also always present to encourage and support us.” “Professor Smith is incredible when it comes to helpfulness,” notes a third. In the words of yet another student, “This man deserves an award for all that he does for his students!”

Consider it done. Jesús, I am delighted to formally recognize the deep appreciation and warm affection shared by your students and colleagues by presenting you with the 2022 Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member.

June 12, 2022