



1999

Northeastern State University Faculty of the Year

The Faculty Council, along with the entire NSU Community, is very pleased to announce this year's inductees into the **Northeastern State University Faculty Circle of Excellence**. These awards are the highest annual honors given to NSU faculty for excellence in teaching, research, and service. Our recipients this year have certainly set a high standard for all of us to emulate. **Congratulations for a job very well done!**

Faculty of the Year for Teaching

Dr. Bill Edmondson

Professor of Optometry
College of Optometry

Faculty of the Year for Research

Dr. James Alexander

Assistant Professor of Political Science
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Faculty of the Year for Service

Dr. Terri Baker

Professor of English
College of Arts and Letters

In addition to a number of mementos recognizing this high honor, including a brick with their names inscribed added to the NSU Faculty Circle of Excellence (in front of Seminary Hall), Vice President Pate has provided through the Office of Academic Affairs each recipient with his/her choice of either a new Pentium computer for their office or \$2,000 to be used for research or professional development to assist them in their continuing work for excellence at NSU.

News Release:

Circle of Excellence Award

05/04/99

Every year, Northeastern State University chooses three faculty members for its Circle of Excellence Award, formerly called the Faculty of the Year Award, for service, teaching and research. A reception was held Thursday, April 29 in the NSU Jazz Lab to honor this year's winners.

"All of the candidates for this year's awards epitomize devotion and dedication to the University community and the Tahlequah community," said NSU President Larry Williams. "It was very difficult to choose one person for each category as each candidate has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Their accomplishments are a shining example of the high caliber of faculty we have here at NSU."

Those chosen for the award this year are: teaching, Dr. Bill Edmondson, optometry professor; service, Dr. Terri Baker, English professor; and research, Dr. James Alexander, political science assistant professor.

"The fact that the committee had such difficulty selecting just one winner in each category is indicative of the excellent quality of work we have happening here on campus," said Bill Wallace, chairman of the Faculty Awards Committee and associate professor of speech. "Any one of the applicants would have been worthy winners, and in many ways it is too bad we only get to honor three people every year." Edmondson was recognized for his extensive work in the College of Optometry. He not only educates optometry students, but post-graduate residents and practicing optometrists, as well.

"It is a tremendous honor to be chosen," said Edmondson. "It is a very stringent process and the way the committee has structured the process lets us recognize the support we receive from academia and from our individual departments."

Baker was lauded for her activities with the ITESM program, being current state president of the American Association of University Professors, all her work with the Native-American population on campus and the numerous presentations she gives covering the Native-American culture.

"My mother is the inspiration for all the work that I have done," said

Baker. "She attended a Presbyterian mission school for Choctaw children in the 1920s, and she taught me that education is the way for us to survive. I am honored, but couldn't have done any of the service work without the help from many of my friends and fellow faculty."

Alexander has done extensive research into the changes in the Russian political process and was recognized for his meaningful research.

"I am quite excited and honored to be chosen from such a large pool of qualified candidates," said Alexander. "To be chosen as the top faculty in research among such well-respected professors means a great deal to me."

Fellow faculty and students nominate faculty members for the award and each nominee must submit a portfolio of their accomplishments to a committee made up of past award winners.

The winners of this year's award received a certificate of appreciation and a plaque, and the option of getting a new computer with the latest technology or a \$2,000 professional development/research stipend, as well as a brick inscribed with their name to be placed in the Circle of Excellence in front of historic Seminary Hall.
