McPherson Distinguished Teaching Awards Announcement
2012/2013

Congratulations to Mr. Antonio Castro, Dr. Tia Madison, and Ms. Martha Elizalde de Pereira who are the recipients of the 2013 McPherson Distinguished Teaching Award sponsored by the Napa Valley College Foundation.

Martha Elizalde de Pereira is the well-deserving recipient of this first award for part-time instructors. Martha has taught Spanish at Napa Valley College since Spring 2001. She came to teach at NVC while finishing her Master’s degree in Spanish at CSU, Sacramento. She also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish from CSU, Sacramento, and a degree in Foreign Language Teaching from the prestigious University Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico. Martha also taught Spanish as a Second Language in Mexico. In addition to teaching, she works as a translator. In addition to Martha’s positive, energetic, and enthusiastic approach to teaching, she was cited for her outstanding command of the technology in the Language Lab, mentorship to other part-time instructors and as a role-model for students.

Antonio Castro, professor of Engineering and Physics, started at Napa Valley College in 2006 facilitating Academic Excellence Workshops in the MESA program. In 2007, Antonio began teaching engineering part-time and was hired full-time in Fall 2009. Antonio has a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from CSU, Fullerton, and worked as an engineer at Agilent Technologies and American Microwave Technology (AMT). Antonio’s accomplishments at NVC have been many, including growing the Engineering and Physics programs, serving as an advisor for several clubs, including SHPE, SACNAS, and MESA, and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Department of Transportation internship program, participating in CTE grants by teaching workshops on solar training, and being actively involved in the annual NVC Engineering Day, the MESA science fairs, and Earth Day demonstrations. The nominations for Antonio described Antonio’s deep passion for teaching, his ability to mentor and inspire students, and his unassuming, hardworking, and caring personality.

Tia Madison began teaching Speech Communications at Napa Valley College in 2003 after teaching speech and theater arts part-time at several community colleges in California. Tia has a Bachelor’s degree in Speech Communications from Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, a Master’s degree in Fine Arts (Theater, Film & Television) from UCLA, and, in Spring 2013, earned her Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Phoenix. Tia has been the coordinator/instructor of the Umoja program since its inception at Napa Valley College and has made a difference in the lives of many students. Tia has been elected to the position of Vice President I for the Academic Senate starting in fall 2013. “On the side”, Tia is a talented and award-winning actor/director. She has won Arty and Elly awards and a Jack Nicholson Award for Excellence in Acting. The nominations for Tia described her as “smart, energetic, motivational, caring, beautiful inside and out, and wanting to see you grow.”

The committee is composed of a student, a faculty member who was a previous McPherson winner, a NVC Foundation member, a member of the Board of Trustees, and the Vice President of Instruction.

Antonio, Tia and Martha will be honored, along with past McPherson winners, at a reception to be held on Friday, May 10.