DIVERSITY 1/29/17 S. KOCH

In recognition of her outstanding efforts to promote inclusivity on university campuses, UW-River Falls psychology Professor Cyndi Kernahan has been honored with the 2017 Board of Regents Diversity Award. Sophia Koch (COOK) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:12 O/C: STD

BRAD CASKEY: SOMETIMES THERE ARE AWARDS WHERE A PERSON HAS DONE SOMETHING VERY SPECIFIC, AND YOU NOMINATE THEM BECAUSE THEY DID X. BUT THIS ISN’T THAT CASE. WHEN CYNDI’S NAME CAME UP, IT WAS REALLY ME THINKING OF A KIND OF A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

SOPHIA KOCH: THAT WAS DEAN BRAD CASKEY OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, WHO HAS BEEN A COLLEAGUE OF KERNAHAN’S SINCE SHE BEGAN WORK ON CAMPUS IN 1999 AND WHO HAS COORDINATED THE PROCESS FOR HER NOMINATION. THE DIVERSITY AWARD WAS GIVEN TO KERNAHAN IN REGOGNITION OF A LONG CAREER TEACHING STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS ALIKE ON HOW TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF MINORITY POPULATIONS.

CYNDI KERNAHAN: WHAT I DO IS I JUST LOOK AT THE SCIENCE AND I’M ALWAYS KEEPING UP WITH THE SCIENCE, AND THEN I USE THAT, I TRY TO TRANSLATE THAT FOR OTHER INSTRUCTORS AND TRANSLATE THAT FOR PEOPLE ON CAMPUS SO THAT WE CAN CREATE POLICIES THAT HAVE A CHANCE OF BEING HELPFUL. I’M A BIG BELIEVER IN USING EVIDENCE TO MAKE DECISIONS LIKE THAT, AND ALSO I TRY TO CONVEY AS MUCH OF THAT IN MY TEACHING AND MY WORKSHOPS AS POSSIBLE.

SOPHIA KOCH: KERNAHAN PLANS TO CONTINUE HER WORK ON CAMPUS, AND HER COURSE “PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE AND RACISM” IS CURRENTLY BEING OFFERED FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M SOPHIA KOCH.

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