Qualities to Celebrate in a Teacher

From the University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence

Organizes for effective teaching

- Has materials ready for each class
- Gives students a map of the semester with both goals and timetable
- One segment of learning leads into the next
- Demonstrates to students a love of the discipline and a love of learning
- Is fair to all students; is approachable; maintains a human yet disciplined manner
- Demonstrates flexibility in teaching to address various learning styles

Communicates high expectations and employs appropriate methods to help students meet them

- Syllabus explains expectations and gives reasons for them
- Fair but rigorous grading
- Helps students set challenging goals
- Acknowledges exceptional student work
- Enforces on-time work; clarifies amount of time on task
- Requires challenging amounts of homework
- Challenges students to think critically beyond their comfort zone

Assigns authentic tasks and evaluation to help students learn, remember, and synthesize; provides prompt and useful feedback

- Gives students feedback on their work as it develops
- Uses appropriate classroom evaluation
- Provides examples and materials relevant to students
- Assess students’ current knowledge/skills
- Utilizes guest speakers, filed trips, etc., to relate course material to society at large
- Sets standards analogous to the work world

Enhances learning among students through interactive activities and team efforts

- Includes group work in class
- Utilizes peer-teaching methods
- Provides opportunities for students to present their work to class
- Uses simulations, role playing, debates, field trips, service learning
- Gives students shared control of course
- Models respect for diversity of cultural and ethnic ways of knowing

Mentors one-on-one or small group interactions

- Regularly spends times outside of class giving feedback and instruction on research and creative projects
- Models good teaching assistant–instructor relationships and co-authoring
- Orients students and serves as a resource to the University's teaching and research resources, curricula, instructional technology, etc.
- Takes a leadership role in mentorship opportunities in the department, college, and/or University

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