

Postsecondary

2010 National Business Education Association Outstanding Contributions to Business Education by a Postsecondary Business Teacher

In the epigraph to the 1910 novel *Howards End* we find an entire sermon in two words—“Only connect.” These two words express a thread that runs through the career of this year’s recipient of the **National Business Education Postsecondary Teacher Award**—her outstanding ability to connect. Here, in the words of a student, is just one example of that gift:

I have been a student for eighteen years now, and have never encountered a teacher whose compassion and commitment to every student’s learning is as great. During spring quarter, extensive vision problems had me ready to drop out of the office specialist program. She was the only professor who listened to me and understood...and found solutions to help me achieve in the keyboarding classes I found so difficult... . She never fails to recognize and encourage the potential in all her students, even when they can’t see it for themselves.

This is not an isolated instance. One supporter notes that students frequently tell our award recipient they would not have succeeded in college if it had not been for her patience and guidance along the way. Another says that often our nominee is the first person in students’ lives to reach out to them at this level and help them stretch for new goals.

Her work has put her college on the map as one of the best business technology programs in the country. She has mentored new faculty and created events where students and faculty can interact with each other. Her work with advisory committees and business professionals resulted in a curriculum that is always up to date, and in graduates who are fully prepared to succeed in the workplace. She convinced her state's community college consortium to create another career pathway—administrative office professional—for students interested in support roles in today's modern offices. When she became frustrated over not being able to find qualified secondary business education teachers with whom to articulate college classes, she developed a mentoring and training program to help ensure a continuance of quality business education in her state.

Our award recipient's contributions to students and to her profession have been so plentiful and so profound that she received her institution's "Distinguished Staff" award—which is frequently given at retirement—many years ahead of schedule, prompting one student to exclaim, "Don't let her retire!"

If it is true that teachers touch the future, then we can be assured that business education has a bright one, due to the extraordinary dedication and leadership of this instructor. Please join me in congratulating **NBEA's 2010 Postsecondary Business Teacher of the Year**, from Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon...

Mary Ann Lammers.