May 16, 2014

Professor, program honored for retention work

Sacramento State Professor of Pan African Studies Boatamo Mosupyoe and the Cooper-Woodson College (CWC) Enhancement Program were honored by the University for Outstanding Service in the Area of Student Retention/Graduation Initiative.

As ethnic studies director and co-director of CWC, Mosupyoe has made a major difference in the lives of African American students during the last several years. Her multifaceted outreach efforts have included creating a vibrant website, connecting students with the community through conference participation and developing their scholarship. The upshot has been an enrollment surge in CWC scholars; more important, these traditionally underserved students are staying in school and are on track to get their degrees.

Marcellene L. Watson-Derbigny, associate vice president of Student Retention and Academic Success, cited Mosupyoe’s “considerable impact on student recruitment and retention” at a recent reception announcing the award.

Professor Rita Cameron Wedding, who coordinates the Women’s Studies Program, concurs: “To ensure that every scholar had a mentor, Dr. Mosupyoe would not only send emails and make phone calls, but she would walk to different offices to plead with faculty and staff to mentor CWC scholars.”

Mosupyoe’s drive and determination, Cameron-Wedding adds, has motivated scholars by making them believe in themselves. “Through her leadership, CWC scholars were able to invite President Obama’s sister, Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, to campus,” she says. These achievements are even more impressive because the professor teaches a full load of classes without any release time.

“I am honored to receive this award,” Mosupyoe says, “in honor of the founders of Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program (CWC): Otis Scott, David Covin, Chris Glen and others. We all follow in their footsteps as we continue to preserve their legacy. They saw the need and like them, we believe there is nothing more gratifying than helping students to believe in their ability to succeed, developing skills necessary
to succeed and to see them actually succeed. As the CWC scholars themselves eloquently put it: ‘Success is guaranteed as a gift to those who strive to succeed.’ 

Professor Mosupyoe and this program personify Sacramento State’s core mission of teaching, learning and service by helping African American students to succeed and excel.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller

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