Sac State recognizes outstanding faculty and students

This month, Sacramento State is honoring numerous faculty members for their commitment to research, teaching, scholarly activity and service, in addition to celebrating the efforts of exemplary student-researchers.

Caroline Sotello Viernes Turner, a professor in the Doctorate in Educational Leadership Program, was honored last week as the 2014-15 recipient of the University Award for Research and Creative Activity. In a separate ceremony, the Faculty Senate presented the 2014-15 Outstanding Faculty Awards to 20 professors from various colleges throughout the University.

And on Friday, Sac State’s Office of Research Affairs hosted the annual Student Research Symposium to recognize outstanding scholarly accomplishments by our students. (See our story and photos from the symposium: http://bit.ly/1C29fFy.)

Turner, who grew up in California migrant worker camps and picked fruit alongside her parents, is a longtime advocate for student access and equity in higher education.

“She is an exemplary scholar who has become prominent in her field, nationally and internationally, as well as outside of academia,” says Katerina Lagos, chair of the Research and Creative Activity Committee that selected Turner for the University (formerly the President’s) Award. “Her research has impacted hiring practices in the business world.”

Turner received her award March 4 in the University Union, Forest Suite, and presented a lecture to the campus community, “Lessons from the Field: Cultivating Nurturing Environments in Higher Education.”

On March 5, during a ceremony and reception in the University Union, Redwood Room, the Faculty Senate honored 20 professors for their achievements in four categories: outstanding teaching, service to the University, scholarly and creative activity, and community service.

“The Outstanding Faculty Awards are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate faculty excellence, as determined by college-based committees,” says H. Reza Peigahi, chair of the Faculty Senate. “One thing that makes the awards stand out to me is that the winners are being recognized by their peers. We, as faculty, rarely have the opportunity to celebrate the work of our colleagues.”

Recipients of the 2014-15 Outstanding Faculty Awards are:

**Outstanding Teaching Awards**
- Ron Coleman, Biological Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
• Aya Ida, Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
• Nuriddin Ikromov, Finance, College of Business Administration
• Jacqueline Irwin, Communication Studies, College of Arts and Letters
• Robert Pieretti, Speech Pathology and Audiology, College of Health and Human Services
• Lynda Stone, Undergraduate Studies, College of Education

Outstanding University Service Awards
• Phillip Akutsu, Psychology, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
• Carolynn Goetze, Nursing, College of Health and Human Services
• Lisa Hammersley, Geology, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
• Kazue Masuyama, Foreign Languages, College of Arts and Letters
• Pia Wong, Teaching Credentials, College of Education

Outstanding Scholarly and Creative Activity Awards
• Tim Horner, Geology, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
• Edward Lascher, Public Policy and Administration, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
• Saad Merayyan, Civil Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Science
• Hakan Ozcelik, Management, College of Business Administration
• Mona Siegel, History, College of Arts and Letters
• Caroline Turner, Graduate and Professional Studies, College of Education

Outstanding Community Service Awards
• Manuel Barajas, Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
• Nassrine Noureddine, Nursing, College of Health and Human Services
• Nigel Poor, Design, College of Arts and Letters

The Student Research Symposium, held March 6 in the University Union, gave students the opportunity to present their research and scholarly and creative activities to the campus community in either poster or oral presentation format.

The top two undergraduate and graduate presenters in each category received the Provost’s Award for Research Excellence, which included a monetary award for students and professional development funds for their faculty mentors.

As many as 10 students who made oral presentations will compete at the 29th annual California State University (CSU) Student Research Competition in May at CSU San Bernardino. – Dixie Reid