

# FDEA OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

August 14, 2008



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I am pleased to take this opportunity to recommend Dianne Kostelny for the FDEA Outstanding Educator Award.

Professor Kostelny's participation in FDEA over the years provided the impetus for transformation of the Northwest Florida State College's reading program. To ensure consistency and quality of instruction in the classroom, Dianne developed a comprehensive, easily accessible program allowing seamless access to information and activities for adjuncts. This program included access to department syllabi, manuals, and Power Point presentations ensuring adequate coverage of each of the important college reading skills required for the courses. Additionally, she encouraged participation in monthly meetings, even if only through e-mail, and continued dialogue with lead instructors to encourage novice and associate instructors throughout the semester. To provide specific support, Dianne scheduled classroom visits by lead instructors to encourage novice instructors throughout the semester to share information, provide encouragement and feedback, and build confidence. Finally, she developed links to

electronic resources to provide students yet another convenient, easily accessible source to help them prepare and review for the Exit Exam. The consistency of instruction and assignments established support for the novice associates, and the continued communication with accomplished instructors provided the key to student success. After implementing ideas gleaned from her association with FDEA, Dianne chose to give back by joining the Board of Directors in 2002 and serving the organization in a variety of official capacities. One of the first tasks Dianne took on was to create a pamphlet showcasing student success stories and FDEA accomplishments. Compiling this information provided a complete and comprehensive source of information to aid her as Institutional Dues Chairperson in 2003. By the spring of 2007, she had increased institutional membership to include 27 of the 28 eligible institutions as well as the membership of one university.

In July 2006, Dianne assumed the role of President for FDEA. Under her leadership and guidance, the

FDEA's By-laws and Handbook were updated to include a new section which provided alternative processes for conference planning that encouraged participation from all institutional members by instituting conference planning rotations among the five regions. Additionally, the handbook was expanded to include helpful information such as NADE dues and corporation fees to encourage our individual members and institutions to broaden their scope of involvement. The completed information was then posted on the website for convenient access. Finally, Dianne established a distribution list of FDEA individual and institutional members and college presidents for timely e-mailing of FDEA newsletters as well as pertinent information.

I cannot endorse another instructor more fervently than Dianne Kostelny for this honor. Her active commitment to both her students and the FDEA make her the ideal recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award.

Sincerely,

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College