

A Community of Learners

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We are a community of learners. Because of my position as faculty development director at Kennesaw State University, I have the opportunity to facilitate the sharing of information across campuses. I have learned a great deal from Regents’ Distinguished Professors although I have not had the pleasure of meeting most of them. Learning, though, occurs not only in face-to-face encounters. Through these pages, I invite you to learn from, and to get to know, these distinguished professors.

When I initially learned about the Regents’ Distinguished Professor program, I became excited at the prospect of having yet another avenue for sharing information about teaching. Many campuses designated a faculty member to share with colleagues his or her expertise in reaching students. I immediately contacted these professors to invite them to write for this edition of *RTT*. These authors were given free rein: they could address philosophies of teaching, pedagogies, or plans for the future.

I interacted with these colleagues via e-mail, letters and telephone. This communication provided me the opportunity to touch base with an old friend with whom I taught many years ago. I’m proud of him for being his institution’s distinguished professor. The endeavor allowed me to talk with a colleague that I have been e-mailing for the last year and a half, but whom I have never met. She is a phenomenal writer. In one breath she discusses Confucius; in the next, she moves on to discuss the Internet and web courses. I have enjoyed learning from her.

The title “Distinguished Professor” allows the faculty member to carve out different roles on his or her respective campus. One teacher shares with her campus information about how students learn. Another discusses his desire to dive into faculty development that focuses on technological applications and to bring his colleagues into the Information Age. Their goals are different, their styles are different, and their stories are different. •