

## 2021 Faculty Award Winners

### Outstanding Faculty Awards:

#### *Gabriela Chavira, Psychology*

Dr. Chavira joined the Department of Psychology in 2004. Dr. Chavira has committed herself to CSUN's students, her department, college, and CSUN, as well as the profession as a developmental psychologist. Throughout her tenure at CSUN, she has taught core courses in psychology, with an emphasis on culture and diversity. Gabriela is also a Principal Investigator of NIH BUILD PODER (Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity; Promoting Opportunities through Diversity in Education and Research) which received the largest grant ever received by CSUN totaling over \$40M that helps supports over 300 students, with over 75% BIPOC. The goal of NIH BUILD is to diversify the biomedical research workforce by training undergraduate students through a lens of critical race theory that appeals to their sense of social justice. Dr. Chavira has spent many hours mentoring students through BUILD PODER. As the Co-Program Director of the Student Training Core for BUILD PODER, Gabriela has managed well over 130 students and would meet weekly with them to discuss professional conferences and help them navigate their career goals. Dr. Chavira has also contributed to CSUN across department, college, university-wide committees and CSU-wide committees along with publishing extensively in her field. Dr. Chavira has also co-authored many empirical papers with several students as lead authors. Dr. Chavira's commitment to CSUN has benefited thousands of students and is helping to transform CSUN into a place where students have a sense of belonging, motivation and engagement in their education.

We congratulate Dr. Chavira on being selected as a 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award Winner.

#### *Lawrence Stoffel, Music*

Since joining CSUN in 2004, Professor Stoffel has made extraordinary contributions to student learning experiences and the field of music. Among his accomplishments, Professor Stoffel's dedication to music education resulted in his reception of the California Music Educators Association Hall of Fame Award (2018) and California Music Educators Association John Swain College/University Educator Award (2010) and being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Design and Manufacturers in the United Kingdom (2009). As a music scholar, he has authored a book, book chapters, journal articles, and reviews and offered guest lectures, keynote addresses, workshops, and extensive consultations. As a performing artist, he has served as a guest and festival conductor with numerous bands throughout California and beyond.

Professor Stoffel's CSUN wind ensemble and symphony not only successfully perform in venues nationally and internationally but have also served as a source of support for students in and from various circumstances. Over the decades, Professor Stoffel has supported students beyond his music instruction. Former and current students relate Professor Stoffel's genuine concern for their welfare and future.

Professor Stoffel is a humble, efficient, and effective member of the university and his profession. As a creative teacher, talented musician, and devoted team player, he has served as a

mentor for junior faculty. His creative contributions include developing an equitable approach to student evaluation of faculty, serving as an advisor, and evaluating comprehensive examinations and theses. Colleagues outside the university also overwhelmingly describe Professor Stoffel's selfless devotion to students, music education, and music.

We congratulate Dr. Stoffel on being selected as a 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award Winner.

### **Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship Awards:**

#### ***Gregory Knotts, Elementary Education***

Dr. Gregory Knotts joined the Department of Elementary Education in 2006. He is an outstanding embodiment of all the criteria for the Distinguished Teaching Award and we are pleased to grant him this year's Distinguished Teaching Award.

It is clear that Greg cares about not only his own students, but also students and colleagues throughout the university. His dedication and continuing commitment to students and faculty alike is reflected in the letters of support we received from students at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral level, as well as from colleagues, including tenured/tenure-track faculty, full-time lecturers, and others.

Greg's teachings extend beyond his own classroom in Elementary Education. Throughout his time at CSUN, he has had a profound effect on other faculty across the campus through his involvement with Faculty Development and related activities. Further, Greg was a founding member of the CSUN Queer Studies program on campus, a true testament to his commitment to CSUN students. His dedication to faculty becoming better educators is overwhelming. He continues to publish in scholarly journals on a wide range of topics including first-year faculty learning communities, pedagogy, and underrepresented populations.

We congratulate Dr. Gregory Knotts on his innovative approach to teaching and his ability to directly support the students, faculty, and community of CSUN.

#### ***Kandice Soraya Grote, Child and Adolescent Development***

Dr. Kandice Grote joined the Department of Child and Adolescent Development in 2015. Since then, she has taught classes in CADV and Liberal Studies. She has served on various education-related committees such as assessment committee, integrated teacher education program committee, and EPC at the department, college, and university levels. Her commitment to education extends to the community where she is an executive board member of the Multicultural Learning Center that emphasizes cultural and individual differences as promoters of academic, social, and intrapersonal success.

Dr. Grote has multiple presentations and publications focusing on education-related topics (e.g., bilingual cognition, growth mindset, faculty learning communities, early literacy, and cultivating belongingness and leadership). She describes her teaching approach as a Learner-Teacher Model, refers to her students as "scholars," and helps nurture a community of learners. Faculty have

used words and phrases such as learning centered instructor, empowers students with growth mindset, develops creative lessons with educational rigor, impactful, compassionate, and effective. Students have used words such as organized, enthusiastic, engaging, informative, validating, impactful, approachable, and mentor. Needless to say, faculty and students have consistently praised Dr. Grote's outstanding contributions in teaching and creating positive environments for learning.

We congratulate Dr. Kandice Grote on her contributions to distinguished teaching through service, scholarship, teaching, and mentoring. Students, faculty, and the community greatly benefit from her efforts.

### **Preeminent Scholarly Publication Award:**

#### ***Wendy Murawski, Special Education***

The recipient of the 2021 CSUN Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award is Dr. Wendy Murawski from the Department of Special Education for her body of work in the field of education focused on improving and increasing inclusive education for individuals with special needs through co-teaching. Dr. Murawski joined CSUN's Department of Special Education in 1998 as a lecturer and moved up the ranks until 2010 when she was awarded the rank of Full Professor and selected for her current role as Executive Director and Eisner Endowed Chair for the Center for Teaching and Learning at CSUN. Her impressive record of scholarly publication in the last ten years includes four edited books (one translated into French), nine books (one translated into Danish), 13 book chapters, ten peer-reviewed journal articles, one invited article translated into Chinese, and one handbook. Dr. Murawski's nominator describes her as: "a diligent and prolific author, harmonizing her governing positions on numerous educational boards and societies with her renowned professional development workshops both foreign and domestic, along with her tireless and innovative leadership of the prestigious Center for Teaching and Learning." In addition, Dr. Murawski is "the recognized gold standard for the educational community" on the "subject of co-teaching in an inclusive environment." We commend Dr. Murawski for her record of scholarly publication and congratulate her on receiving CSUN's 2021 Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award.

### **Exceptional Creative Accomplishments Award:**

*no awardee was selected this year*

### **Extraordinary Service Award:**

#### ***Kim Henige, Kinesiology***

Highly renowned for her fierce advocacy, Dr. Kim Henige is passionate about the success of her students, her colleagues, and the community programs she has designed over the past decade. Her wholehearted commitment to service was evident in the enthusiastic support of over a dozen individuals who nominated her for this award.

Her service to the CSUN community is extensive and includes overhauling an outdated advisement system, serving as Faculty Senate Secretary, being active on numerous advisory boards and committees, and serving as a judge at the research CSUNposium.

Many of her initiatives focus on student success. She collaborated with key administrators to develop a *seminar* to provide support for first time freshman and community college transfer students and created a peer tutoring program for difficult exercise physiology courses. Dr. Henige is passionate about teaching and mentoring. She has made her mark on learners of all ages and skill levels by identifying and fostering their talent and abilities, giving them the skills to be successful students and effective professionals. Former students refer to her power as a “force” that inspires them to achieve things that they never imagined or thought possible.

Dr. Henige has impacted individuals beyond CSUN through offering innovative lessons on physiology to elementary students and by developing and overseeing a fitness program on campus that is open to the local CSUN community.

Dr. Henige also demonstrates leadership in service to national professional societies where she is respected and has impact in roles such as President of the Southwest Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Corresponding with her professional service, her research interests focus on improving the learning experience for students in exercise physiology who serve in key roles in all of her initiatives. Across a wide range of activities, Dr. Henige truly demonstrates extraordinary service that benefits CSUN, the local community, and numerous alumni all over the world.

### **Visionary Community-Based Service Learning Award:**

*Alex Ojeda, Criminology and Justice Studies*

While we are amazed at the caliber and quality of the community service learning efforts of all the nominees, we unanimously agree that the visionary community service-learning award should be awarded to Dr. Alex Ojeda. Dr Ojeda’s work exemplifies the spirit of the award. Once an “at risk” student, Dr Ojeda invites students to examine issues such as carcerality, environmental justice and community building. The Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage (MOSAIC) mentees are involved in community engagement projects with LAUSD, YMCA, Pasadena City College, and the Gang Reduction and Youth Development and Alliance for Community Empowerment, and more. Dr. Ojeda’s service learning course, Criminology and Justice Studies 452 MO, the MOSAIC project, has served the greater Los Angeles community and helped countless numbers of youth of color from marginalized and disenfranchised communities for 14 years. As CSUN faculty, we commend his level of engagement with the community and only wish that we could enroll in this course.

### **Highly Influential and Sustained Innovation Award:**

*Peter Bishay, Mechanical Engineering*

Since 2015, when he joined the CSUN faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Peter L. Bishay's genius for teaching and discovery has swept through all aspects of engineering education, leaving a wide sweep of innovations that have helped his students, his fellow faculty, and the world. He has pioneered state-of-the-art projects in which his students work with smart materials to design and build highly responsive objects, such as aerial vehicles with morphing wings and lightweight prosthetic arms and hands. His students have presented their work at conferences, won prizes in competitions, and published their designs in academic journals.

In addition to creating a new graduate course on the design of smart mechanical systems, he has enriched existing CSUN classes with new projects and computational tools to help students think critically and understand how to create new devices using sound engineering principles. He designed and implemented a computational grading system that gives students feedback to help them improve their work before turning it in. He creates educational resources, both for his numerous thesis students, and for all the CSUN mechanical engineering students, who benefit from the tools and computer programs that he has helped bring to his department. Having devised and implemented a plethora of innovative projects, Professor Bishay generously shares his ideas with the world in an array of articles on engineering education.

### **High-Impact Innovation Award:**

#### ***Steve Hampton, Art***

Professor Steve Hampton resolved a seemingly insurmountable obstacle to teaching online drawing classes, a foundational aspect of the CSUN Art Department's core curriculum. Basic drawing classes rely on the use of models, like pyramids, cubes, rounds and live human models. By moving around these objects in a face-to-face environment, students gain understanding of perspective, shadow, angles, etc. This experience did not translate to the virtual space where objects appear in 2D rather than in 3D form. Professor Hampton resolved this challenge by using existing technology, and a drawing website to make it possible to view objects in 3D form on a 2D drawn plain. Hampton introduced this innovation to the eight faculty he oversees, who teach 23 sections of ten different art classes, with more than 500 students during the COVID-19 Pandemic, when face-to-face classes were impossible. In other words, Hampton's innovation literally saved the core class in the Art curriculum for over 500 students. Professor Hampton has also collaborated with a colleague, Scott Eaton, to develop curriculum and innovative content on YouTube, and for an education website ([www.bodiesinmotion.photo](http://www.bodiesinmotion.photo)), where students and faculty throughout the world can access 3D drawing models. Finally, Professor Hampton's program will facilitate Art classes at CSUN in the department's distance learning program for years to come. His program was thus truly innovative, had an immediate high impact at CSUN, and has great potential global impact.