



October 6, 2010

Office of the Provost

Gerry Selter
Provost & Vice President
for Academic Affairs

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TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs and Directors

FROM: Gerry Selter, Provost and Vice President
Division of Academic Affairs

RE: Call for Nominations: Provost's Honors Seminar

I'm pleased to announce an innovation to the Outstanding Professor honor that we award each year. Starting in Spring 2011, the Office of the Provost will sponsor an annual Provost's Honors Seminar – taught by the year's Outstanding Professor to a group of honors students from the entire campus. I am asking your support in identifying 4 or 5 of your Dean's and President's Scholars (and other distinguished student leaders in your programs) for this opportunity. The Seminar will be limited to 25 students recommended by their Deans and/or Chairs.

The seminar will deepen the value of the Outstanding Professor award. Since the award recognizes a faculty member for "overall excellence in academic assignment," it seems reasonable to honor the Outstanding Professor with just such a teaching venue. At the same time it will provide a select group of honors students with a high impact, integrative capstone type of course. This gives each Outstanding Professor the opportunity to create a memorable "career apex" teaching experience for outstanding students.

This honors seminar will be another venue for showcasing outstanding faculty work and will serve as an incentive for other professors (and for honors students). The Provost's Office is an active and visible sponsor and supporter of academic excellence and this seminar contributes to that goal.

For curriculum, the Outstanding Professor will select a significant topic of general interest to the liberally educated student, based on the Professor's discipline and/or research. I have asked AVP Jaehne to oversee the seminar from the Office of Undergraduate Studies. He will follow up shortly with a memo describing the details.

The current Outstanding Professor, Dr. William Reckmeyer (Professor of Leadership & Systems in the Department of Anthropology) will offer the inaugural seminar in Spring 2011 on the topic of "Global Citizenship." Please address your questions (and student inquiries) about the course to him (william.reckmeyer@sjsu.edu).

Thank you for your continued support in making such opportunities available to our students.