March 20, 2012

McEwen Receives UGA Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award

Deanna W. McEwen, public service assistant in the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, is one of two UGA faculty to receive the 2012 University of Georgia Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award. The award recognizes UGA faculty for excellence in developing, implementing, and sustaining academic service-learning opportunities for UGA students in domestic and/or international settings. Academic service-learning integrates relevant community service with academic course work and structured reflection to enhance student learning, develop civic responsibility, and address community needs.

In McEwen’s work at the College of Pharmacy she has incorporated and extended service-learning experiences for all second- and third-year pharmacy students, improving their clinical and interpersonal skills through at least 80 hours of direct involvement with the community in four courses. These introductory pharmacy practice experiences, which meet new accreditation standards from the American College of Pharmacy Education, involve over 250 students annually in disease prevention and awareness clinics, health camps, and wellness programs.

McEwen has engaged her students in developing and implementing smoking cessation programs for UGA employees, influenza vaccination clinics for Athens-Clarke County government employees, farmworker family health programs in south Georgia, blood drives, and cardiovascular fitness programs for Walton County. She has also improved coordination and communication with these multiple community partners, hosting a service-learning expo to share information, clarify activities, and prepare community preceptors for supporting student learning.

McEwen holds a Pharm.D. from the University of Georgia. A member of the UGA faculty since 2009, she was a Service-Learning Fellow in 2010.

Established in 2011, the Service-Learning Teaching Excellence award carries a $2,500 faculty development award. All full-time, permanent UGA faculty members in any career track are eligible.

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