At the heart of the University of Nevada, Reno is our deeply committed, intellectually curious, student-centered and research-minded faculty. In areas from foreign languages to field ecology, our innovative and talented educators are shaping the minds of future generations and conducting pioneering research that is changing the world for the better. Each year, academic and administrative faculty and staff members are recognized and honored by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, the University, and a host of independent organizations, from local to global. In the pages ahead, we celebrate this year’s faculty awardees and their dedication to student success, community collaboration and world-renowned research that puts all eyes on Nevada.

Miles Greiner
Foundation Professor

Miles Greiner, professor and interim chair of mechanical engineering, joined the University in 1986. His research focuses on heat transfer, with expertise in convection augmentation, large-scale fires and nuclear packaging safety. Greiner is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and has twice received the University’s Senior Mentor Faculty Award, as well as the Lemelson Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and professional recognition for outstanding technical papers on the subject of package safety in fire environments. Greiner is currently developing a graduate certificate in Nuclear Packaging with support from the Department of Energy and is the lead science investigator on more than $1 million of funding for thermal management research for NASA.

G. Richard Scott
Foundation Professor

After 24 years at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Professor of Anthropology G. Richard Scott joined the University as a lecturer in 2001. In addition to his teaching and mentoring responsibilities, Scott conducts research in dental anthropology, with a special emphasis on morphological crown and root traits, dental disease and stress and cultural behavior in medieval European civilizations. His continued research centers on the bioarcheology of Spanish Basque, Alaskan Inuit and Greenlandic Norse populations. He has authored several books and dozens of journal articles on a variety of subjects in dental morphology and anthropology. Scott has served as the president of the Dental Anthropology Association and has assisted law enforcement with dental forensic analysis in both Alaska and northern Nevada.

Wei Yan
Foundation Professor

Professor of Physiology and Cell Biology Dr. Wei Yan established his lab at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine in 2004. His research addresses the molecular mechanism of reproduction and fertility control. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and book chapters, serves as an associate editor for the journals Biology of Reproduction and Environmental Epigenetics and is a member on the editorial boards of three international scientific journals. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Society for the Study of Reproduction’s Young Investigator Award and the Nevada System of Higher Education Regents’ Rising Researcher Award in 2009, the American Society of Andrology’s Young Andrologist Award in 2012 and the Nevada Healthcare Hero Award for Research and Technology in 2013.

M. “Said” Saiidi
Established Innovator Award

Foundation Professor of Civil Engineering M. “Said” Saiidi joined the University in 1979 and went on to serve as chair of the civil engineering department and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. His research interests include earthquake engineering of bridges and buildings with a focus on the application of advanced materials in earthquake engineering. Saiidi was founding chair of the American Concrete Institute Committee on Earthquake Resistant Concrete Bridges. He was named a Foundation Professor in 1997 and has received the Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award, the Lemelson Award for Innovative Research, the Advisor of the Year Award and the College of Engineering Excellence in Research Award.
Nancy Markee
Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award

Associate Professor and Assistant Chair of Natural Resources and Environmental Science Nancy Markee received her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Davis before joining the University of Nevada, Reno in 1986. With a background in both the biological and the social sciences, her research has centered on interactions between humans and the natural environment, focusing on conservation issues that have a human behavioral component. Markee also has a distinguished record as a student academic advisor, having developed the University’s Academic Advising Center and serving 12 years as its director. She is currently a faculty advisor for undergraduates studying environmental science and wildlife ecology and conservation.

Julie Stoughton
Undergraduate Academic Advisor Award

Lecturer and Academic Advisor Julie Stoughton taught high school science for nine years and was an environmental educator in Yosemite National Park before joining the University’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) in 2005. In addition to teaching introductory environmental science courses, Stoughton co-teaches a course for undergraduate science majors who then spend a semester teaching elementary school science. She is currently a faculty advisor for undergraduates studying environmental science and wildlife ecology and conservation.

Tamara Scronce
Graduate Academic Advisor Award

Associate Professor of Sculpture Tamara Scronce ‘91 (art) joined the University’s Department of Art in 2000. Her efforts were critical in the design, approval and implementation of the MFA program in art, and she currently serves as the MFA graduate director. Scronce has exhibited her artwork in solo, group and juried exhibitions and has received several awards and artists’ grants in support of her work, including the distinguished Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award and the Sierra Arts Foundation Endowment Grant. She received the 2015 Outstanding Service Award in the College of Liberal Arts and has twice been a runner-up for the Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award.

Eunkang Koh
Regents’ Creative Activities Award

Associate Professor of Printmaking and Drawing Eunkang Koh produces artwork in a variety of media, from printmaking to drawings to the book arts. Believing that the world is an illusion that we see through the lens of mainstream cultures, she explores these cultures through vivid depictions of human/animal hybrid creatures. Koh’s work has been displayed in solo and group exhibitions all over the world—from Japan and Australia, to Spain and Brazil, as well as New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco. She has a distinguished array of awards and scholarships, including a Nevada Art Council Fellowship (Honorable Mention) and several research grants.

Henry Fu
Regents’ Rising Researcher of the Year Award

Assistant Professor of Engineering Henry Fu joined the University in 2010 after completing his post-doctoral research at Brown University. Fu’s research centers on hydrodynamics, specifically on the solid and fluid mechanics of swimming microorganisms, such as bacteria, and micro-robotic devices. His work has application in targeted drug therapy, prevention of bacterial infection, and other areas of biomedicine and health. In 2013 he received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, which recognizes the nation’s most outstanding junior faculty and provides five years of research funding. Fu currently holds the Ralph E. Hoepner Endowed Professorship and directs the University’s mechanical engineering graduate program.

“Professors at our University…are not just impacting their respective research fields through cutting-edge discovery and innovation. They are changing how students experience learning on our campus.”

- President Marc Johnson
Emma Sepúlveda Pulvirenti
Global Engagement Award

Foundation Professor Emma Sepúlveda Pulvirenti ’76 (Spanish), ’78 M.A. is an advocate of human rights and political empowerment in Latin America and the USA’s Latino community, and for this work she received the 1993 Thornton Peace Prize. Her writing, including 29 books and numerous articles, has been recognized nationally and internationally, and she has lectured in Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. She was appointed to the National Commission for the Creation of the American Latino Museum in Washington, D.C. in 2010 and to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in 2014 by President Obama. She is the director of the University’s Latino Research Center.

Sarah Cummings
Global Engagement Award

Senior Lecturer and Organic Chemistry Coordinator Sarah Cummings received her bachelor’s degree from Haverford College and her doctorate in chemistry from Columbia University. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Utah before joining the Nevada faculty in 2007. She has received several teaching awards, including the Gene LeMay Outstanding Teaching Award and the Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award, and has been recognized as a Westfall Scholar Mentor and a Senior Scholar Mentor. Her current work is focused on developing online content and implementing innovative teaching methods in large enrollment courses, such as her recent “flipped” organic chemistry class with more than 200 students.

David Croasdell
Global Engagement Award

Associate Professor of Information Systems and Charles and Ruth Hopping Professor of Entrepreneurship David Croasdell believes that in our modern, global culture, entrepreneurs must use technology to engage with other cultures and economies. Croasdell is the academic director of the Mandela Washington Fellows Initiative for Young African Leaders, which seeks to empower young men and women from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic and leadership training. Closer to home, Croasdell is the director of the University’s Sontag Entrepreneurship Competition and co-director of the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup College Business Plan Competition. His research focuses on IT solutions to knowledge sharing within organizations.

Donald Hardy
F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award

Professor of English Donald Hardy was a faculty member at the University of North Texas, Northern Illinois University and Colorado State University before joining the University of Nevada, Reno in 2005. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in language, linguistics and literary expression. Hardy’s research focuses on discourse analysis, stylistics and corpus linguistics in American language and literature. He is the author of several books and articles analyzing narrative and linguistic voice in fiction and was most recently co-author of an article published in the International Journal of Corpus Linguistics that examined the topic of risk in contemporary American literature.

Sarah Cummings
F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award

Mae Gustin
Outstanding Researcher Award

Foundation Professor of Natural Resources and Environmental Science Mae Gustin joined the Nevada faculty as an assistant research professor in 1994. She teaches courses that range from Environmental Ethics to Biogeochemical Cycles, while her research is focused on the transport and fate of environmental contaminants such as mercury and arsenic, with direct application to pollutants found in the Great Basin. Gustin has been recognized world-wide for her research in mercury monitoring and has received numerous accolades for her work, including the Nevada Women’s Fund Women of Achievement Award and two Researcher of the Year awards from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources.

Sarah Cummings
F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award

“W e take pride in having great faculty members in all departments on campus. Whether our students are interested in arts, engineering, medicine, social sciences, the environment, business, or any other field, dedicated faculty mentors are available to them.”

- Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Carman
**Great Faculty**

**Rita Escher**  
*Distinguished Service Award*

Director of Academic and Opportunity Support Programs Rita Escher has spent two decades working with low-income and first-generation students at Nevada. She directs the TRiO Scholars Program and the McNair Scholars Program and oversees several other programs that assist first-generation students to access and succeed in higher education. In addition to bringing millions of dollars in federal funding to the University, Escher’s dedication to educational opportunity has been widely recognized within the University community and beyond.

**Thomas Judy**  
*Distinguished Service Award*

Vice President of Business and Finance Emeritus Tom Judy began his career with the University in 1983 and officially retired earlier this year. During his career at Nevada, Judy oversaw all of the University’s business affairs and operations and worked daily with nearly every department on campus, supporting their educational, research and service missions. He also provided business support to the four other Nevada System of Higher Education institutions in northern Nevada, including the System’s head office. Judy provided valuable counsel to the University and the System, and his experience, skill, credibility and personal integrity distinguished him as an outstanding business leader.

**Dale E. Mueller**  
*Classified Employee of the Year Award*

Dale E. Mueller is a carpenter with the department of Facilities and Maintenance Services. He specializes in roof repair and has provided quality roofing for the entire University of Nevada, Reno campus. It is estimated that the improved roofing provided by Mueller and his coworkers has saved the University at least $250,000. Mueller constantly continues his education in the latest roofing technology, connecting with manufacturers and suppliers, performing safety maintenance to areas that were previously inaccessible and making himself available to satisfy the emergency needs of other departments. His example of excellence and innovation earned him the designation of Classified Employee of the Year.

**James T. Richardson**  
*Distinguished Faculty Award*

Foundation Professor of Sociology and Justice Studies James T. Richardson has been teaching at the University since 1968. He directed the internationally recognized Judicial Studies graduate degree program for trial judges and the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, which was created in 1992 to stimulate scholarship that leads to informed social policy. Richardson’s work centers around the sociology of law and religion, and he is researching the treatment and control of minority religious groups in courts around the world. He is the author and editor of 12 books and over 300 journal articles and book chapters. Richardson has completed a Fulbright Fellowship in The Netherlands and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in Bellagio, Italy.

**James (Kent) McAdoo**  
*Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award*

Professor Kent McAdoo ’75 (renewable natural resources - forestry) is a natural resources specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and has spent nearly 40 years studying ecological relationships in the Great Basin. McAdoo’s efforts have helped to build constructive, locally based alternatives to broad federal designations regarding management of endangered and protected wildlife species, and he has co-authored research with federal and local scientists about the healthy functioning of sagebrush ecosystems. McAdoo is a co-leader of the Creeks and Communities Program, a traveling workshop focused on management of riparian areas, and the Nevada Youth Range Camp, a week-long hands-on opportunity for high-school students to learn about natural resource management.

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"The creativity, research, energy and passion of faculty are foundational to Nevada’s emerging innovation ecosystem. They pour their hearts and souls into their fields and inspire their students; they are putting Nevada at the forefront of technological, social and educational innovation."

- Vice President for Research and Innovation Mridul Gautam