

Regents' Creative Activity Award – Community College
Erin Frock, TMCC

Erin is a professional counselor and a tenured academic faculty member at TMCC. She provides a human-centered, holistic approach to working with students, focusing on personal counseling issues and career exploration. In addition, Erin coordinates and teaches EPY 101: Educational, Career and Personal Development, a course designed to assist students with being successful in and out of the classroom. She is also certified as an On Course trainer for EPY. Erin serves on a variety of committees at TMCC including Faculty Senate, Recognition and Activities, and Student Appeals. She earned her master's degree in counseling and educational psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2005.

Regents' Creative Activities Award – University / State College
Joe Nathan Bynum - UNLV

Nate Bynum is a Full Professor of Theatre at UNLV (University of Nevada Las Vegas). In the College of Fine Arts, he is the first African-American to be tenured and promoted to the rank of full professor. Additionally, he is the first African-American to serve as the Associate Chair and the Graduate Coordinator of any CFA department. In 2002, he single-handedly created a screen acting curriculum to join the stage acting emphasis, forming the school's elite undergraduate Stage and Screen Acting Performance Degree (SSA), which has graduated many young professional actors working today on TV and in movies. Bynum has served UNLV in many capacities on various university, college, and departmental committees.

His UNLV honors include twice (2004 and 2013) being awarded The Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts, the CFA's highest creative activity award, and the CSUN Student Government Award for Faculty Excellence (2013), an award voted on by students. For his community volunteer work with underprivileged kids, he was named the 2013 Man of the Year by the Las Vegas Chapter of The Society, Inc., a non-profit national organization of women dedicated to enhancing, exposing, and promoting youth in the arts. In 2018, he was selected by the Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG) to serve on the 25th Annual Screen Actors Guild Theatrical Motion Picture Nominating Committee.

As a member of the Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

(SAG/AFTRA), he regularly appears as a guest artist on network and cable TV shows and as supporting leads in movies. His most recent credits are guest starring opposite Oscar-winner Viola Davis in *How To Get Away With Murder*; the Fox Network show, *Deputy*; the OWN Network show, *Ambitions*; the ABC Network show, *The Rookie*; and various Hallmark and Lifetime movies. He is booked to shoot a national documentary on African-Americans in opera, hosting opposite Vanessa Williams, singer/actress and former Miss America.

Bynum is married to Dr. Linda Lister, has two daughters, and a very active and inquisitive, five-year-old grandson.

Regents' Teaching Award – Community College – Tenured
Ronald Gonzalez, CSN

Ronald Gonzalez is originally from Philadelphia, PA, and moved to Las Vegas in 1998. In 2002 he and his wife moved to North Dakota due to his wife's medical residency training at the University of North Dakota, and they returned to Las Vegas in 2005.

Ronald graduated from nursing school in 1992 and has been a registered nurse for over 28 years. His nursing background ranges from medical/surgical staff nurse, operating room nurse, emergency/trauma nurse, IV nurse, and nursing administration. He obtained his Master's in Healthcare Administration in 2006. In 2007, Ronald began teaching as adjunct faculty in the Nursing department at the College of Southern Nevada; and in 2008, he obtained his Master's in Nursing and was hired as a full-time Nursing instructor at CSN. In 2011, Ronald became a tenured Professor at CSN.

Currently, Ronald is the co-coordinator of the NURS 101 Fundamentals of Nursing course at CSN, where he teaches lecture, lab, and clinical. In the past at CSN, he has taught NURS 115, NURS 205, NURS 208, and was the Program Director of the Practical Nursing program. He has been married for 21 years, and his hobbies include playing the piano and travelling. Always wanting for more experience, Ronald has returned to school in the Fall of 2020 to pursue his Doctorate degree.

Ronald has truly enjoyed educating and helping to influence future nurses. With all of the students he has taught, he shared not only his knowledge and experiences, but also tried to demonstrate what it means to be a health care professional. Ronald tries to lead by example by demonstrating that nursing is a service to the community at-large, and not just a job with set hours. He has volunteered his time to different activities and encouraged students to do the same when he was the faculty advisor for the Student Nurses Association at CSN. Ronald also mentors and precepts students from other Colleges and Universities who are pursuing their Master's degrees whenever possible to help shape future nurse educators.

Regents' Teaching Award – University/ State College/ DRI - Non-Tenure Track
Pamela Sandstrom, UNR

Dr. Pamela Sandstrom joined the faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2002 and currently serves as a teaching associate professor in Biology. Dr. Sandstrom is an extraordinarily talented instructor and is a key member of the Biology department's faculty tasked with teaching large enrollment courses for undergraduate life sciences majors, undergraduate professional health care majors and students pursuing post-graduate education in health care. Dr. Sandstrom has taught about 10,000 students since joining the faculty. Her student and peer evaluations are remarkable, particularly with the breadth of majors in her courses and their varied reasons for taking the courses. Dr. Sandstrom's commitment to innovation and assessment in the delivery of her course materials and the clear demonstration that the techniques and programs she has implemented are clearly effective in improving student learning and retention in her courses. She routinely stretches the capabilities of her delivery methods of course content and has already developed flipped courses and online content that has been extremely effective. She has developed a Peer-Led Team Learning program for students in her large enrollment courses and has been an exceptional role model and mentor for the army of undergraduates she directs and supervises as peer team leaders. Students in her courses adore Dr. Sandstrom because she will always go out of her way to assist students in her courses and always has students in her office. Dr. Sandstrom is an exceptional instructor who tirelessly works to find creative and effective ways to deliver her course content with new technologies and pedagogical strategies. She is very effective in the assessment and resulting improvement of her innovations. Her creative, innovative and effective teaching strategies demonstrate her remarkable talent that is certainly worthy of the recognition of the Regents' Teaching Award.

Regents' Teaching Award – University/ State College/ DRI -Tenure Track
Geoffrey Smith, UNR

Dr. Geoffrey Smith graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with an MA in Anthropology in 2006. Dr. Smith has taken teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level seriously since the day he arrived back in Reno in 2010 after completing his PhD at the University of Wyoming. He currently serves as an Associate Professor and Executive Director of the Great Basin Paleoindian Research Unit in the department of Anthropology. He is the recipient of the F. Donald Tibbitts Teaching Excellence Award in 2019, the Alan Bible Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018, and the CLA Dean's Award for Teaching in 2013. In sum, this record of achievement is clear evidence of his teaching effectiveness and his dedication to his students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Smith not only excels in the classroom, but he is likewise involved in graduate education and has mentored, trained, and graduated over twenty graduate students. His teaching evaluations are consistently at the top strata of the department and his classes are very popular and almost always fully enrolled. Dr. Smith work to incorporate undergraduate work into his research projects, mentoring undergraduate students in the field and in the lab under the auspices of the Great Basin Paleoindian Research Unit. As a result, a number of undergraduate students have joined UNR's graduate program under Dr. Smith's mentorship. His dedication to graduate education matches his commitment to undergraduate students. He is among the most active faculty in the anthropology department in graduate education. He has graduated numerous M.A. students and consistently carries a large number of MA and PhD students and sits on the committees of many others. He graduates students in a timely fashion, spending considerable time working with students on their writing and laboratory skills. He is truly one of the most outstanding and talented teachers in the College of Liberal Arts and has had a positive influence and made a lasting impact on countless students.

Regents' Academic Advisor Award – Community College
Lauren Stevens, WNC

Lauren Stevens holds the title of Coordinator of Advising and is a counselor at Western Nevada College. She has been with WNC since 2012 and received her M.A. in Counseling and Educational Psychology from the University of Nevada Reno. With 14 years of combined experience as a mental health therapist and community college counselor, Lauren is also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor with the State of Nevada.

At Western Nevada College, Lauren provides academic advising and career and personal guidance to numerous WNC students. As the primary counselor for student veterans, she also works closely with veteran family members. Lauren is also an active member on several committees within WNC, holding positions on both the Behavioral Intervention Team and the Curriculum Committee.

Regents' Academic Advisor Award – University / State College / DRI Award – Undergraduate
Janita Ethridge, UNR

Janita Ethridge has been a member of the health sciences advising office since 2008 and was promoted to Director of Advising, Recruitment and Retention in 2016. Janita's leadership of recruitment for the health sciences is impressive, including implementing specific efforts to recruit students from Nevada's rural areas including Elko, Winnemucca, and Battle Mountain. Janita leads the planning and implementation of HealthFIT (the health sciences version of NevadaFIT). Students who participate in HealthFIT find the program meaningful, useful and fun while also providing them with a sense of belonging at the University. Even while serving as director, Janita continues to advise students. Much of Janita's direct advising is targeted at special and at-risk populations, including students who are on academic probation, returning to the University after dismissal, and veterans. She also advises the annual incoming freshman cohort for the Speech Pathology & Audiology program, which has a retention rate of 94% this year. Janita pays special attention to students entering their senior year by developing and running "Don't Wait Graduate" workshops to help shepherd students through their final year before graduation. Janita recently had a presentation accepted at the National Academic Advising Association Conference that highlighted her team's work on aligning the pre-nursing and community health sciences degree programs. Students report that Janita is supportive, welcoming, always has their best interests in mind, but also that she pushes them to challenge themselves and get the most out of their education. In the midst of a global pandemic, Janita shifted new student orientation online and managed student requests for alternate grading all while making sure her team remains available to students in this new virtual world. Janita's passions for helping students succeed, her willingness to take on new challenges in order to express that passion, and her commitment to the academic quality of the University of Nevada, Reno, particularly in health professions make her a worthy recipient of the Regents' Undergraduate Advising Award.

Regents' Academic Advisor Award – University / State College / DRI - Graduate
Kwang Kim, UNLV

Kwang J. (Jin) Kim is *Distinguished Professor* of UNLV and directs the Active Materials and Smart Living Laboratory at the department of mechanical engineering. Prior to joining UNLV in Fall 2012, he was with University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) as *UNR Foundation Professor* and *Chair* of the Mechanical Engineering Department (2007-2012). He graduated from Yonsei University, Seoul, S. Korea, in 1987 and received his MS and Ph.D. from Arizona State University (ASU) in 1989 and 1992, respectively (all three in Chemical Engineering). Later, he completed a postdoctoral study at the University of Maryland-College Park (UMCP; 1993-1995) in Mechanical Engineering. His industrial R&D experience includes Thermal Electric Devices, Inc. (1995-1997) and Environmental Robots, Inc. (1997-2001), Albuquerque NM. His research interests are in a broad spectrum of “Active Materials” and “Energy Systems.” He has authored/ co-authored more than 400+ technical publications including 206 referred journal papers, 4 monographs (1 pending) and holds 7 inventions including 3 awarded U.S. patents and 1 awarded international patent. His research is well versed in the research community as reflected by more than 14,000 google citations with *h*-index of 58 as of September 2020. Also, he successfully tech-transferred two of his inventions from his laboratory. In 2018 Kim was elected to become Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors – the first one from Nevada.

His excellence in research, creativity, and teaching and service to his professional communities was recognized by a number of awards including the 2015 Nevada Regents' Researcher Award, the 2016 Harry Reid Silver State Research Award, the 2016 Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, the inaugural 2017 UNLV Top Tier Award, the UNLV Distinguished Professorship in 2018, the 2020 Distinguished Engineering Educator Award from the UNLV Academy of Engineering, the 2011 UNR Foundation Professorship, the 2006 UNR/College of Engineering Lemelson Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the 2002 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities. He is an elected Fellow of American Society of Mechanical Engineers and currently serves on the editorial boards of 4 major journals in his fields of research.

Regents' Researcher Award – Distinguished
Dr. Ian Buckle, UNR

Dr. Buckle is a Foundation Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nevada Reno. He is a former director of the UNR Center for Civil Engineering Earthquake Research and the UNR Structural Engineering Laboratories, which house the only four-table array in the United States for simulating earthquakes at large-scale. Before coming to Reno he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research at the University of Auckland, and as Deputy Director of the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research at the University at Buffalo (now the Multidisciplinary Center for Extreme Events Research). He earned his bachelor and doctoral degrees at the University of Auckland.

Dr. Buckle's research interests include improving the seismic performance of highway bridges, design and retrofit criteria for bridges, earthquake protective systems for bridges including the theory, hardware, and applications of seismic isolation, tsunami loads on bridges, and soil-structure-interaction for bridges with deep foundations such as those with long spans. In addition to teaching graduate courses in these topics, he participates in short courses for design professionals in the seismic design of new bridges, retrofitting of existing bridges and the seismic isolation of new and existing bridges.

Dr. Buckle received the Charles Martin Duke Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2016 in recognition of his many contributions to improving the seismic performance of bridges.

Regents' Researcher Award – Mid-Career
Scott Earley, UNR

Scott Earley, Ph.D., studied Electrical Engineering (BS) and Microbiology (MS) at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine. He completed his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellow at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, where he studied the roles of ion channels and Ca^{2+} signaling in vascular control. He was appointed Assistant Professor (2006-2011) and Associate Professor with tenure (2011-2013) at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He joined the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine faculty in 2013 and was promoted to Professor in 2016. Dr. Earley's research program occupies the intersection of biophysics, neuroscience, and vascular physiology. His laboratory is focused on understanding how transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels, acting as essential molecular sensors of the brain's internal environment, influence critical aspects of cerebral microvascular regulation to maintain optimal brain health and function. Findings from his research team have provided lasting insights into the sensory role of TRP channels in the regulation of blood flow within the healthy brain and how these pathways are affected by cerebrovascular dysfunction and dementia associated with aging. His research program has been funded by the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2003. He recently received an Outstanding Investigator Award from the NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to support his research through 2028. He also is the Principal Investigator and Director of the Center for Molecular and Cellular Signaling in the Cardiovascular System, an NIH-funded Center for Biological Research Excellence. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research papers, reviews, editorial comments, and conference proceedings, is a standing member of the NIH's Integrative Vascular Physiology and Pathology Scientific Review Group, and is a member of the editorial board of several leading scientific journals, including *Physiological Reviews*, *Microcirculation*, and *the American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*.

Regents' Rising Researcher Award
Javon Johnson, UNLV

My research agenda is driven by the desire to understand creativity, critical thinking, and their shared relationship. With interests in race, gender, sexuality, class, pop-culture, and 20th and 21st century African-American literature, I am a diverse and broad ranging scholar whose work is well situated between African American Studies, Performance Studies, Theatre Studies, American Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, English, and Communication. The impact of my research is evidenced by *Killing Poetry: Blackness and the Making of Slam and Spoken Word Communities* (Rutgers UP 2017), a single authored monograph that won the National Communication Association's Best Book in Ethnography Award in 2018 and the Communication Association's Best Book in Performance Studies Award in 2019 and *The End of Chiraq: A Literary Mixtape* (Northwestern UP 2018), a co-edited volume that features youth voices theorizing about Chicago. Furthering my point about impact are my multiple single-authored essays in peer review journals such as *Text & Performance Quarterly*, *The Black Scholar*, *Departures in Qualitative Research*, *Liminalities*, *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*, all of which are premier journals in their respective fields, and high profile collections such as the *Cambridge Companion to Twenty-First Century American Poetry* and *The Routledge Handbook of Performance Studies Research Methods*. Additionally, having won UNLV's College of Liberal Arts Diversity Award in 2018 and the National Communication Association's Lilla Heston Award in 2019, which recognizes "outstanding published research and creative scholarship in interpretation and performance studies," provides more proof of the influence of my work. As a creative scholar, one who studies performance and is a performance practitioner and a poet, I have been invited to perform, conduct workshops, and deliver keynotes at conferences, universities, and public spaces such as Dartmouth, the University of Southern California, Washington University of St. Louis, Northwestern, Nigeria, Bermuda, Portugal, PBS, CNN, and many others. My third book, *Aint Never Not Been Black* (Button Poetry 2020), is a collection of poems that foregrounds Black pleasure, Black pain, and Black love in unflinchingly Black ways. Engaging with themes of masculinity, racism, love, and joy, Johnson is at once critical and creative. Most recently, I was offered a week-long performance residency at the renowned John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in D.C. (pushed back due to COVID-19), and I just recorded a one-man performance special with Pasadena Playhouse called *Still*, which explores how creativity and art provide avenues for a more just and equitable world. Currently working on and shopping my fourth book about Black joy as a theory and practice of liberation rooted in this moment of mass protest, as well as creating a young writing and performance organization in Las Vegas, I am constantly seeking to bridge the gap between the university and the community, which situates my research agenda well with UNLV's mission of "research, scholarship, and creative activities," especially as it works toward "a deeper engagement of UNLV with Las Vegas and our region to ensure ongoing alignment with our diverse community's needs and interests."

Regents' Rising Researcher Award
Daniel McEvoy, DRI

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Plattsburgh State University of New York and serving as a professional environmental consultant in private industry, Dr. McEvoy pursued a Master's and Ph.D. in the Graduate Program of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno. Since graduating in 2015, he has worked at DRI, first as a Postdoctoral Fellow and then as an Assistant Research Professor within the Division of Atmospheric Sciences and Regional Climatologist for the Western Regional Climate Center. Dr. McEvoy's research has increased our understanding of land surface-atmospheric feedbacks and evaporative processes on droughts, the connections between drought, climate, and wildland fire, and natural resource management applications of weather, climate and satellite data. Dr. McEvoy excels at turning big climate data research into applied climate products that can be accessed and used in real world settings such as land and water management. Dr. McEvoy has established a strong record of publications during the first five years of his career. He has given over 60 presentations at national scientific conferences and workshops, published 17 peer-reviewed publications to high quality journals such as Geophysical Research Letters and Journal of Hydrometeorology, and has contributed to two book chapters. The subjects of these publications range from development and applications of the Evaporative Demand Drought Index to seasonal drought prediction, and papers documenting the development of web tools such as Climate Engine. Dr. McEvoy has successfully developed and funded more than a dozen grants and contracts from diverse sources such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, California Department of Water Resources, NASA, SERVIR, and Google. These funded projects total more than \$3.2 million.

Regents' Rising Researcher Award
Jennifer Pearson, UNR

Dr. Jennifer Pearson is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Sterling in Scotland. Her research focuses on how federal and state tobacco and cannabis regulations influence consumer behavior. Dr. Pearson has authored over 100 scientific articles on tobacco and cannabis policy and published in high-impact journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Tobacco Control*, *Addiction*, and *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*.

Dr. Pearson's methodological interests include longitudinal mixed method designs that combine rigorous quantitative and qualitative data streams, allowing for cross-validation and comparison of research findings. Currently, Dr. Pearson is Principal Investigator (PI) of a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded study examining how, if at all, cannabis legalization in Nevada has affected adolescents' cannabis use behaviors. Previously, Dr. Pearson was PI of two NIDA funded studies on how smokers initiate e-cigarette use and how the built and social environment affects e-cigarette use behavior.

Before moving home to Reno to join UNR in 2017, Dr. Pearson was a Research Investigator at the Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies at Truth Initiative, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Pearson earned her doctorate in Social and Behavioral Health from the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2011, and her MPH degree from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in 2007. Dr. Pearson started her tobacco control career as a Tobacco Education Coordinator for the American Lung Association of Nevada in 2005 and served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa from 2002-2004. Dr. Pearson grew up in Reno and is a proud Reno High School alumnus.

Regents' Rising Researcher Award
Kyra E. Stull, UNR

Kyra E. Stull, PhD, D-ABFA is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Stull earned her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (2006), a MS in Biological and Forensic Anthropology at Mercyhurst University (2008), and her PhD in Anatomy, with a concentration in Biological Anthropology, from the University of Pretoria (2014). Between her MA and PhD, Dr. Stull was the Coordinator of the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State University, where her primary roles were to manage the willied body donation program, accession remains into the collection, and curate the collection. Following her graduation in 2014, Dr. Stull was hired at Idaho State University where she spent two years prior to joining the Anthropology Department at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). She was awarded the title "Extraordinary Lecturer" from the University of Pretoria in 2015. In 2019, Dr. Stull became a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (#127). Her scientific contributions and on-going research led to her receiving the Young Forensic Scientist Scholarship by the Brazilian Academy of Forensic Sciences and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. While she is an excellent researcher, she has also been recognized for her teaching. In 2019, she was honored with a nomination for a university wide teaching award (Paul and Judy Bible University Teaching Excellence Award).

Dr. Stull has research interests in forensic anthropology, human growth and development, modern human variation, and quantitative methods. Her primary research seeks to explore the predictive ability of age and sex indicators and develop techniques to accurately identify unknown decedents. A large portion of her current research is dedicated to increasing the utility and accessibility of modern statistical/big data techniques and methods through intuitive graphical user interfaces (GUI) that operate through R. She currently maintains two GUIs and is in the process of introducing her first R package, which provides a function for an algorithm she has developed with another colleague.