

For Immediate Release

Contact: Courtney McCall
(314) 340-3391
mccallc@hssu.edu

Nancy Popkin Named Harris-Stowe 2013 Educator of the Year

ST. LOUIS, MO (October 25, 2013) – Harris-Stowe State University is proud to announce that Nancy Popkin, instructor of English, has been named the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Educator of the Year.

Popkin will be recognized at an invitation-only awards reception in November, at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton. Popkin received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and her post-graduate degrees in English and Education from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. She has been an English instructor at HSSU since 1989. She is also the co-director of the St. Louis Gateway Writing Project, a partnership between HSSU and UMSL. Through this collaboration, Popkin has led workshops and creative writing sessions that educate professional English teachers on engaging students in high-interest classroom activities involving writing.

During her tenure at Harris-Stowe, she has served as co-chair of the NCATE Self Study; co-chair of the Higher Learning Commission Self Study; co-chair of the Students for Success Council and a member of the Educational Policies Committee; Scholarship Committee and Search Committee. Each year she holds Praxis review sessions for students who are studying for tests as Secondary English pre-service teachers. Additionally, Popkin has volunteered numerous hours to mentor students on test-taking strategies in the study of English, including writing and understanding literature.

Quite the team player, she has worked diligently with the curriculum offerings for both the General Education Composition and Introduction to Literature courses as well as assisted in creating new courses in World Literature and Mythology, both of which have proven to be useful for students studying for their Secondary English certification. She generously shares ideas and techniques with her colleagues and has presented innovative lesson plans to other members of the HSSU faculty.

Each year the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards program recognizes more than 100 educators — from kindergarten teachers to college educators — in the St. Louis metropolitan area who are examples of excellence in the field of education. Recipients are selected by the chief administrators of their school districts or educational institutions. This is the only public recognition event of its kind in the state of Missouri.

Emerson, which has its world headquarters in St. Louis, has sponsored this program since 1989 as part of its commitment to promote quality education throughout the St. Louis area.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 15 degree programs in the areas of Accounting, Business Administration, Biology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Health Care Management, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Information Sciences and Computer Technology, Mathematics, Middle School Education, Educational Studies, Professional Interdisciplinary Studies, Secondary Education and Urban Affairs. Ranked by *U.S. News* as one of America's Best Colleges in the Midwest, the university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor's degree in the state of Missouri. HSSU is home of the Don and Heide Wolff Jazz Institute.

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