News Release

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College of Engineering Professor Earns UT Systems Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award

Stephen W. Stafford, Ph.D., P.E., Freeport McMoRan Professor of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, has been announced a recipient of the 2011 University of Texas System Board of Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award.

The prestigious honor was introduced by The University of Texas System Board of Regents’ in November 2008 to recognize exceptional teaching, performance and innovation in undergraduate education. The first awards were made in 2009. Recipients are selected in a competitive process from candidates from UT-Arlington, UT-Brownsville, UT-Dallas, UT-El Paso, UT - Pan American, UT - Permian Basin and UT-San Antonio.

Professor Stafford’s recognition marks the third consecutive year a professor from the College of Engineering has been selected for the award. He joins Patricia Nava, Ph.D., Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering (2009) and Stella A. Quiñones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering (2010) as College of Engineering awardees.

Award recipients must demonstrate a clear commitment to teaching and sustained ability to deliver excellence to the undergraduate learning experience. In competition for the awards, faculty candidates were subjected to rigorous examination of their performance over three years by campus and external examiners. Evaluations by students, peer faculty and external reviewers considered a range of activities and criteria including classroom expertise, curricula quality, innovative course development and student learning outcomes.

A teaching portfolio was required to demonstrate pedagogical innovation, continuous improvement of course materials, overall teacher training experience and a statement of teaching philosophy and objectives.

The UT Systems Regents Outstanding Teaching Award is the latest of many awards recognizing Professor Stafford’s extraordinary abilities to transform the lives of generations of students. Prior awards include the the Outstanding Service to the University Award in 1988, the ASM Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teachers of Metallurgy in 1983 and both the ASEE and Dow Chemical Outstanding Young Engineering Faculty Award in 1980.

Dr. Stafford joined The University of Texas at El Paso as an Assistant Professor of Metallurgical Engineering in 1976 after receiving his doctorate degree from Rice University. A native El Pasoan, he earned his bachelor’s degree in metallurgical engineering from UTEP in 1970.