

**Maryville Daily Forum
Thursday, April 7, 2016**

Dr. John Jasinski, Northwest Missouri State University President

It may be hard to believe, but we are standing just three weeks from the finale of our 2015-2016 academic year. And with it comes so many honors and accolades that exemplify Northwest's commitment to our mission of focusing on student success – every student, every day.

Diana Linville represents that commitment this year as Northwest's recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education, which she will receive April 13 in Jefferson City at a ceremony honoring the year's Governor's Award winners across the state.

An instructor of computer science and information systems, Diana's focus area is K-12 outreach. She is highly respected by faculty colleagues and students for her teaching and work ethic. She works actively to enhance her knowledge and skills so she can teach higher-level courses. Her course sections are among the first to fill.

Beyond her teaching duties, she has been involved in solidifying connections between higher education and the K-12 community through her work with Google grants and her work with developing dual credit courses. She developed dual credit course websites for programming languages and recruited schools to offer dual credit. She also is assisting with the development of a dual credit course to be offered through our partnership with Northland CAPS.

Comments from two of her former students speak to Diana's passion for teaching and mentoring students:

"Diana Linville would have to be one of my favorite teachers at Northwest. She was my Computer Programming I teacher for my first programming class and made the class such a great learning environment. The lessons were always broken down in a way that students could relate to, and the projects were always something that was practical and created a good visual. I also had the opportunity to work under Diana as a teaching assistant for Computer Programming I and Computer Programming II and data structures. She is a kind and caring person who cares very much about the success of her students. She was available to lend a helping hand or listen when I was struggling with homework or something personal. She helped make the transition to college and the professional world much easier with her advice. I would not have had the success I have had without having Diana as a teacher, supervisor and mentor."

"I've known Diana Linville since I started my college career at Northwest in the fall of 2011. From the start I could tell she was highly passionate about making sure her students would come out to be successful. After having numerous classes with Diana and working for her as one of her teaching assistants, I can confirm that Diana is dedicated to the success of a better person, both academically and personally, as I was taught to reach out to others in need just as she does. I find it challenging to

put into words the passion and drive Diana has shown me she has for her work while I was in school.”

Great learning environment. Relatable. Kind and caring. A listener. Passionate. Dedicated. Advisor and mentor. We thank Diana for all she does to enhance student success.

There is more to come, of course. We honor retiring faculty members Dr. Judy Clark, Dr. Robert Dewhirst, Dr. Jeff Ferguson, Dr. Nancy Foley, Phil Laber, Dr. Janet Reusser, Dr. John Shaw, Dr. Rheba Vetter and Craig Warner for their astounding 220 years of service during our faculty retirement reception at 3 p.m. Friday, April 22, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Additionally, we honor Dr. Leslie Galbreath, dean of Academic and Library Services, for her 30 years of service to Northwest during a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. tomorrow at the B.D. Owens Library, and University Police Dispatcher Pat Giesken for her 18 years of service at a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, April 22, at the Dean L. Hubbard Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The academic year is winding down, but we are proud of our significant momentum across multiple fronts as we celebrate and reflect on our achievements. That momentum is propelled by the dedication of our faculty and staff who understand and value the opportunity to help students be successful in their careers and communities. An engaged and high-performing workforce – people and relationships – helps nurture our culture, which in turn helps us deliver on our mission.

Dr. John Jasinski is the 10th president of Northwest Missouri State University. For news and events at Northwest visit www.nwmissouri.edu.