

Dr. Todd Young – 2008



Todd Young, associate professor of physics and astronomy at Wayne State College, received the 2008 George Rebensdorf Teaching Excellence Award from the Nebraska State College System on May 3, at the commencement ceremony for undergraduates. Dr. Young exemplifies excellence in his classroom, his profession and in the community.

The Rebensdorf Teaching Excellence Award is presented annually to a faculty member who demonstrates innovation and leadership in teaching and service in the Nebraska State College System. Administrators, fellow faculty, students and alumni nominate candidates. Young is the 24th recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award. He was first selected as Wayne State's Teaching Excellence Award winner, which qualified him as a candidate for the system award.

Dr. Young received his bachelor's degree in physics and English from the University of Minnesota-Morris, his Masters degrees from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and his Doctorate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Physics and Astronomy.

Supporting materials for his nomination noted that Young "constantly stresses the importance of physics as a tool for learning about the world around us" and continuously explores and investigates methods to better educate his students. He has applied this philosophy outside of Wayne State by helping secure two grants aimed at improving the content knowledge and teaching styles of practicing secondary teacher.

Faculty within Young's department note that he serves as inspiration for students by challenging them to perform well in physics, which translates to favorable scores on professional school and graduate school entrance exams. Young is serving his second term as department chair for the department of Physical Sciences and Mathematics.

Information taken directly from the Summer 2008 WSC magazine.