

Masters Category

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Megan Perry, associate professor of Biological Anthropology and a noted archaeologist, has mentored the bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology related research of 21 graduate students for 11 years.

While her mentorship of students is multi-faceted, her primary focus is to provide them with training and experience.

They work closely with her in the lab on campus, on forensic cases assigned to her by the Medical Examiner's Office or local law enforcement agencies, and in the field both in the Middle Eastern country of Jordan and in other regions of the world. She requires her second-year graduate students in the final stages of their thesis to present the sometimes award-winning results during ECU's Research & Creative Achievement week and at an international conference. Dr. Perry and her students have coauthored six publications of their thesis in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes.



Dr. Megan Perry PhD

Ever dedicated to her students, Dr. Perry's involvement with them doesn't end once they've earned their degrees. She supports their various post-MA goals as a mentor and colleague, often pushing them into "uncomfortable intellectual and methodological territories." Such interaction is welcome and successful because her students trust and respect her.

At ECU since 2003, Dr. Perry received her PhD from the University of New Mexico.

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Doctoral Category

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award



Not Merely Trying, but Doing:

The sign in her office says it all: “Do or Do Not, There is No Try!” Just as Dr. Michelle F. Eble tells graduate students that one either completes the steps necessary for a PhD or one doesn’t, she applies the same approach to the way she mentors.

As Associate Professor and Director of the PhD Program in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication and the MA Program in English, Dr. Eble spearheaded the innovative professional development seminars for first year PhD students and has overseen the graduation of 15 students in the past four years. She built an acclaimed mentoring infrastructure in the PhD program and has also helped expand teaching opportunities for PhD students in her program.

Dr. Eble articulates concrete expectations to students, holds them accountable, advises and guides them, and makes their work apparent and essential to the program. Known for her always-open door, her approach combines three deliberate practices: being accessible and available, being willing to learn from students, and creating mutually beneficial opportunities.

Dr. Michelle F. Eble
PhD

“I am quite honored by this recognition because I know many exceptional faculty members at ECU are doing this important work,” says Dr. Eble. “Mentoring often remains invisible and goes unrecognized, yet it is essential to the future of our disciplines, and in many ways, it’s the most gratifying aspect of our work. I am especially grateful for the visibility that comes with this award.”

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