Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching: Professor Patrick Conway

Professor Patrick Conway has been a brilliant teacher and leader in economics education for the entirety of his career at UNC. A past winner of multiple teaching awards, Professor Conway has been doing evidence-based teaching since before it was fashionable, among other things pioneering the use of business-case-histories to teach economic principles in entry-level economics courses and publishing evidence of its effectiveness in peer-reviewed journals. In addition to his excellence in the classroom, Professor Conway serves as Academic Director of the Entrepreneurship Minor at Carolina and helped develop an innovative sequence of practical courses to teach graduate students how to teach.

Students evaluating his courses, after repeatedly referring to Professor Conway as “great,” “fantastic,” “amazing,” and to his courses as “the best...I’ve taken at UNC,” recognize in Professor Conway what so many others have long recognized: excellence in teaching and unparalleled commitment to his students. Professor Conway is the five-time winner of the Department of Economics Award for Undergraduate Teaching, winner of the William C. Friday/Class of 1986 Award for Excellence in Teaching, winner of the Jae Yeong Song and Chanuk Park Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction, and winner of the Kenneth Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award of the Southern Economics Association. Students Professor Conway has taught write that his dedication to students has changed their lives. And, as the Dean of the Department of Economics observed, Professor Conway has throughout his four-decades-long career at Carolina made “unique and outstanding contributions to the teaching and mentoring of UNC’s undergraduate students.”

Professor Conway is, simply put, a gem, and for his unwavering devotion to his teaching, his students, and the University, fully deserves the honor of receiving this year’s Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Professor Conway holds a Bachelors of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a PhD in Economics and an MPA in International Development from Princeton. He has been at UNC since 1983.