Early Academic Career Excellence Award

Dr. Grace Reynolds
Health Care Administration

Dr. Grace Reynolds demonstrates outstanding academic achievement in her work as the Associate Director for Research at CSULB’s Center for Behavioral Research and Services (CBRS), as the graduate adviser for Health Care Administration and in her service to the university.

In her role at the CBRS, Dr. Reynolds works closely with other faculty on developing proposals for federal and local funding agencies, coordinates a project involving a national evaluation, conducts data analysis and writes grants.

She recently won a competitive two-year grant from the California HIV Research Program, University of California Office of the President. The grant not only allows for the capture of data on risky sexual behavior, but uses state-of-the-art smart phone technology to do it. Other research includes a $33,000 grant from the CSULB-USC Metrans Center that studied whether drivers who had their licenses revoked later used public transportation. She also has received $80,000 in funding from the RIMI Center for the study of minority health and health disparities for a social network study of HIV in women, which will begin on May 1.

Dr. Reynolds has published 27 peer-reviewed papers and four book chapters as well as 42 posters/abstracts at national or international conferences since she was hired as a tenure-track professor in 2007.

She has restructured the thesis/project for the Master’s in Health Care Administration (MSHCA) to give students more guidance in developing and completing this capstone to their graduate studies. As a result, more students are completing the MSHCA on time. In addition, Dr. Reynolds has chaired or been a reader on more than 120 student thesis/projects since 2007.

She chaired the Discontinuance Study Panel for the MFA degree in Dramatic Writing and serves on the College of Health and Human Services Graduate Council and the University Library Committee.

Before joining CSULB, Dr. Reynolds worked as a data analyst with the State of Alaska, Section of Maternal Child and Family Health, Epidemiology and Evaluation Unit. She has a Ph.D. in Public Administration from USC.

Early Academic Career Excellence Award

Dr. Dustin Thoman
Psychology

In Dr. Dustin Thoman CSULB has found an interdisciplinary collaborator with expertise in online learning and a passion for promoting diversity, particularly in fields where women and minorities are underrepresented.

Hired in 2008 in a dual position as a social and quantitative psychologist, Dr. Thoman’s research focuses on understanding human motivational processes, particularly how and why people develop interests and sustain motivation for specific academic domains, careers, and other lifelong pursuits.

He is a co-investigator for a highly prestigious National Institute of Health (NIH) RO1 grant, normally awarded to research intensive institutions. Working with faculty from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM), Dr. Thoman is investigating cultural factors on undergraduate students’ motivation to pursue research in biomedical sciences. He is also part of a research team funded by the National Science Foundation to examine science students’ educational and career motivations in multiple areas of the country.

He is an internal evaluator of a program, funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, designed to improve Latino students’ success in CNSM and the College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Thoman is also an internal evaluator on a grant for the Minority Access to Research Careers program currently under review at NIH.

Dr. Thoman teaches demanding classes, including an advanced statistics course, two graduate level courses and an upper division social psychology course, which he has taught in both traditional and online settings.

Dr. Thoman has published research on student motivation in distance learning. He has developed online courses at CSULB that have been so highly regarded he has been asked by other faculty to help them best use instructional technology. He also serves as a member of the College of Liberal Arts Technology Committee and has been a faculty e-learning consultant.

Dr. Thoman has mentored students in many programs, including the Psychology Department’s Career Opportunities in Research program and the McNair Scholars Program. He has also served as the faculty adviser for Psi Chi, the national psychology student honor society.