

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD TEACHER

“The true teacher accepts all”

– Ernest O. Melby from the Teacher & Learning –

1. “Good teachers are more concerned that every student learns as much as they can than they are about putting grades in the grade book. Students in many of my courses can re-do assignments if they are not satisfied with their performance. I don’t try to maximize the variance (gap between the weak student and good students) in grade distributions; I think it’s great if I teach an academically rigorous course and everyone does well. That means I did a good job as a teacher.”

- George Wardlow (Agriculture & Instruction) Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food, and Life Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award –

2. “Good teaching isn’t about technique. I’ve asked students around the country to describe their good teachers to me. Some of them describe people who lecture all the time, some of the describe people who do little other than facilitate group process and others describe everything in between. But all of them describe people who have some sort of connective capacity, who connect themselves to their students, their student to each other, and everyone to the subject being studied.”

- Parker Palmer 1999 –

3. “A good teacher plans the course content and activities to teach LEARNERS, not only subject matter. Acknowledgement of the learner’s life experiences, knowledge, and contributions to the topic can be a starting point for connections to be made.”

- Theresa Cronan (Curriculum & Instruction) ASG and Student Alumni Teaching Award –

4. “This involves a great number of things including very prepared yet flexible, having a sense of humor and being able to laugh at yourself, practice, approachableness, firmness and standards with compassion, and diversity of life experience and interests, but above all, I think the one thing that might set the difference is the desire to see those you teach become successful and being willing to invest my life for their return.”

- Mark Boyer (Landscape Architecture) School of Architecture Outstanding Teacher Award –

5. “I believe an outstanding teacher is someone who not takes great cares in his/her preparation but cares that the students ‘get it’. I also believe that a really great teacher is someone who know that there is more to learn and is seen as someone who actively pursues new knowledge regarding not only the content of what she teaches but hoe she might design her class so that students come to genuinely understand the content.”

- Marcia Imbeau (Curriculum & Instruction) College of Education and Health Professions Outstanding Teacher Award –

6. “An outstanding teacher inspires student to go beyond their comfort levels in learning. These teachers are role models who help their students gather information, assess and evaluate, assimilate and synthesize. Outstanding teachers are not knowledge dispenser, rather they are facilitators in the learning process. Students of these teachers are self confident about their abilities to solve problems.”

- Ronda Mains (Music) J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award –

7. “EMPATHY – know what the student is ‘carrying’, but also believe that the student can always push themselves to be and do more.”

- Greg Herman (Architecture) School of Architecture Outstanding Teacher Award –

8. “For lecture style classes, be excited about the content! Enjoy interacting with your student.”

- Neil Allison (Chemistry) J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award –

9. “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”

- William Arthur Ward –

10. “A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary.”

- Thomas Carruthers –

11. “The object of teaching a child is to enable him to get along without his teacher.”

- Elbert Hubbard –

12. “You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.”

- Clay P. Bedford –

13. Conclusion:

- Has positive relationships with students
- Deals with students’ emotion
- Maintains discipline and control

- Creates a favorable environment for learning
- Recognizes and provides for individual differences
- Enjoys working with students
- Obtain student's involvement in learning
- Is creative and innovative
- Emphasizes teaching of reading skills
- Gives students a good self-image
- Engages in professional growth activities
- Knows subject matter in depth
- Is consistent
- Is flexible
- Displays fairness

“Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.”

- Chinese proverb -