



April 15, 2008

Office of the President

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Dr. Eugenia Paulus for the Professor of the Year Award. Dr. Paulus is an extraordinary teacher, a respected leader among her colleagues, and a kind and generous human being devoted to student success.

Dr. Paulus's chemistry classes are known as challenging and demanding, but students describe her personally as helpful and motivating. She requires all students to meet with her individually during the first three weeks to discuss their goals. Students needing advice or extra assistance throughout the semester are always welcome in her office, where she keeps a white board to help students with their chemistry problems. Her student evaluations are consistently outstanding and there is a common element in the comments. In the words of one student, "She just CARES. She will challenge you, question you, and make you reach your fullest potential."

When the College built a new Science Center in 2001, Dr. Paulus was a compelling advocate for creating laboratory spaces to actively engage each student in the learning process. She spent many hours visiting laboratories and identifying equipment needs and then successfully pursued donations from business and industry for needed instrumentation and supplies. She has helped transform our science students into *student scientists* who learn by doing. Chemistry enrollments have tripled in the past six years.

Dr. Paulus is a thoughtful, purposeful scholar who applies her own knowledge and skills to help students learn. With a colleague at another college she prepared a manual, *Assessment Activities in the Organic Chemistry Laboratory*. Working with departmental colleagues she established learner outcome assessment practices for the introductory chemistry class which have enabled faculty to identify opportunities to improve learner outcomes. If needed instructional materials are not available, she creates them herself. She has developed a tutorial for under-prepared students focusing on laboratory skill development.

Highly regarded by her colleagues, Dr. Paulus is generous and attentive in her collaboration with others. She is a leader in curriculum development and in the replication of a Bachelor's degree in Bioscience to our campus. She has developed articulation agreements with Minnesota universities to ease student transfer and on occasion she has even taught a course for one of these universities to ensure the standards and expectations are equivalent. With quiet grace and a persistent focus on students, Dr. Paulus has helped expand learning opportunities for students, particularly those who are place-bound working adults.

I am honored to nominate Dr. Eugenia Paulus for this award, but I am also honored to have her as a member of our faculty. Dr. Paulus represents the finest traditions of open access community college education. She takes students as they are and helps them get where they want to be. Once when asked why, with all her abilities and opportunities, she chose to teach at a community college, she stated simply, "to make a difference at a place where everyone was welcomed."

Sincerely,

Ann Wynia
President