



**Student Government Resolution 118.026**

**A Resolution Honoring the Educator, Research Mentor, and Faculty Mental Health  
Honoree of the Year**

**Sponsored by Katie Alexander, Academic Affairs Chair; Eric Ngo, Maddie Meyer, and Sam Tillman, Academic Affairs Committee Members; Maguire Radosevic, Jessica Morrison, Maura Shimmens, and Ryan Burch, Educator/Research Mentor of the Year Selection Committee Members; Joe Slama, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair; Caroline Costello and Kathleen Placke, Health, Wellness and Safety Committee Members; and Kathryn Pennell and Emma Worley, Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Selection Committee Members**

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- In 1988, a student-led initiative began the practice of honoring Truman faculty through selecting an Educator of the Year; and
- In addition to Educator of the Year, Truman students further sought to honor the efforts of Research Mentors in the lives of students beginning in 2009 with the institution of the Research Mentor of the Year Award; and
- In addition to Educator of the Year and Research Mentor of the Year, in 2019, the Health, Wellness, and Safety committee sought to recognize the efforts of faculty across campus to promote a positive culture of mental health with the establishment Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Award; and
- In February of 2019, the Academic Affairs Committee collected student nominations for Educator of the Year and Research Mentor of the Year, and the Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee collected nominations for the Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year; and
- The committees received nearly 150 nominations for these awards; and
- The Academic Affairs Committee then invited thirty professors to apply for Educator of the Year and eight professors to apply for Research Mentor of the Year; and

- The Academic Affairs Committee evaluated submissions for the Educator and Research Mentor of the Year awards; and
- From the submissions received, the Academic Affairs Committee selected twelve Educator of the Year finalists and four Research Mentor of the Year finalists; and
- Along with two student representatives each from the Pershing Society and the Leadership Scholars, the Academic Affairs Committee completed classroom observations of each professor for Educator of the Year and interviews with each Research Mentor of the Year; and
- After a long deliberation process to select an Educator and Research Mentor of the Year, the committee reached a majority vote and decided the winning faculty members; and
- The selection committee for the Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Award, made up of the members of the Health, Wellness and Safety Committee along with student representatives from the JED Committee and Positive Peers, evaluated 54 nominations for the Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year award; and
- From the submissions received, the Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Award selection committee selected five finalists; and
- The Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Award selection committee interviewed each finalist as well as collected 120 survey responses from students asking about each professor's practices and attitudes with regard to mental health; and
- After a long deliberation process to select an inaugural Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year, the committee reached a unanimous decision to select a recipient;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Applauds the efforts of all faculty and educators involved in the process for their time and commitment to their students; and
- Thanks Maura Shimmens and Maguire Radosevic for representing the Pershing Society and Jessica Morrison and Ryan Burch for representing the Leadership Scholars; and
- Thanks Kathryn Pennell and Emma Worley for representing the JED Committee and Positive Peers respectively; and
- Confirms that the Educator, Research Mentor, and Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year were selected by the official committees and were recognized at the Accolades of Academics banquet on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019; and
- Congratulates the winner of the 2019 Educator of the Year Award, Dr. David Gillette from the economics department; and
- Congratulates the winner of the 2019 Research Mentor of the Year Award, Dr. Justin Jarvis from the economics department; and
- Congratulates the winner of the inaugural Faculty Mental Health Honoree of the Year Award, Dr. Priscilla Riggle from the English department.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President of Student Affairs; Public Relations Office; Students Maura Shimmens, Maguire Radosevic, Jessica Morrison, Ryan Burch, Emma Worley, and Kathryn Pennell; Dr. Terry Olson, Economics Department Chair; Dr. Mary Shapiro, English Department Chair; Dr. David Gillette; Dr. Justin Jarvis; Dr. Priscilla Riggle; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by Unanimous Consent, April 28, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keaton Leppanen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association