

Rebecca Lynn Hapes, Texas A&M University
NACADA Region VII Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role Award

Rebecca Hapes, Senior Academic Advisor I in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University is the 2009 recipient of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region VII Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role Award. Rebecca will be honored this May at the annual NACADA Region VII conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Rebecca is a Senior Academic Advisor in the Department of Entomology and has made considerable contributions to her department, her College, and her University. Rebecca's department chair called her the "storefront and fuel for student recruitment and retention in their department" and credits her with playing a significant role in the department's 71% increase in student enrollment the last six years. In addition, she was instrumental in the creation of a program and then course for students on academic probation that is currently being considered by the Provost as a model for the entire University.

Rebecca feels her role is to help students "navigate the institutional system to become the productive citizens they are meant to be." One of her students wrote that she "goes above and beyond for her students" and called her the "cornerstone" of the department.

Rebecca currently serves as the President and a past Vice-President of Programs for Texas A&M's University Advisors and Counselors (UAC) organization. She has been recently honored on her campus with several awards, including the 2009 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Diversity, the 2008 President's Award for Academic Advising, and the 2008 Department of Entomology Staff Meritorious Service Award.

It is with great pleasure that we award Rebecca Lynn Hapes the 2009 NACADA Region VII Outstanding Academic Advisor-Primary Role Award.

Tammy Welchert, University of Missouri-Kansas City
NACADA Region VII Graduate Student Scholarship

Tammy Welchert, Student Services Coordinator in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City is the 2009 recipient of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region VII Graduate Student Scholarship. Tammy will be honored at the annual NACADA Region VII conference this May in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Tammy is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Leadership and Policy Studies in Education with a co-discipline in Education. Tammy's interests are in how students differentially experience their academic career based on their ability to achieve academic success. She developed an on-line advising site through Blackboard specifically for

students on academic probation called “Steps for Success” that her supervisor credits with making a dramatic difference in helping students on probation.

Tammy’s goals for the next two years is to continue to develop and refine these programs and share the information with her NACADA colleagues through the NACADA Journal and by presenting at state, regional, and national conferences. Eventually, Tammy would like to be able to use this information to positively influence policy decisions in secondary and higher education.

Tammy’s supervisor admires Tammy’s “passion” for academic advising and student success and is appreciative of her initiative for creating new programs for students. One faculty member wrote that Tammy’s involvement in their office has simply “made it better.”

It is with great pleasure that we award Tammy Welchert the 2009 NACADA Region VII Graduate Student Scholarship.