Provost’s News

As we close the fall semester and also the calendar year, I want to acknowledge everyone in the Mines community that make this institution what it is: a great university. For students this means a wonderful experience while they are here, with their education providing the foundation for what they will do throughout their careers. For faculty this means a great place to work where they can excel in their chosen field of research, work with talented students, and support the institutional mission with excellent teaching. For staff this means the excitement of being able to make a difference and to know that your efforts are important and appreciated by the campus. So, to all, on behalf of the institution, thanks for all that you have done for Mines throughout the year. We all know that 2015 will be upon us before we know it, so I encourage all of the campus to “relax and recharge” in preparation for another exciting year.

Faculty Achievements

Congratulations to the following faculty who are retiring from Mines at the end of the semester. We appreciate your dedicated service and wish you all the best.

Dr. John Cuddington, William J. Coulter Professor of Mineral Economics and Professor of Economics and Business (9 years of service).

Dr. Jerry Higgins, Associate Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering (28 years of service).

Dr. Carl Mitcham, Professor of Liberal Arts and International Studies (15 years of service).

Mines by the Numbers

December degrees awarded:
The number of degrees awarded in last week’s graduation is up by 43% at the Bachelor’s level compared to December 2010. At the graduate level the number of Master’s degrees awarded has fallen by 18% while the number of Doctorates awarded is up by 113%.
Four-year and four and one half-year graduation rate:
Yes, we did have more students walking across the stage last week collecting their diplomas. This represents an ever present topic on the campus: growth. What you probably did not know was that the growth in graduates is fueled by two sources. The first is a campus growth with a Fall 2014 headcount being 5,795 compared to a Fall 2010 headcount of 5,093. The second part of degree growth is the rate at which students complete their degrees. The chart above shows the graduation rate from 2010 and ending in 2014. The strength in these numbers is exciting: a near 40% increase in the four-year graduation rate is reflective of the quality of the Mines faculty, our commitment to developing a residential campus, and our strong reputation, which have enabled us to enhance the academic profile of our incoming student body.

What’s Happening

Travel Award for Teaching Faculty: Academic Affairs is pleased to award teaching faculty up to $1,500 in travel funds per fiscal year. During fall semester 2014, 17 teaching faculty were awarded travel grants to fund conference attendance. Presentations and attendance at conferences related to improving teaching practices, enhancing student learning, and supporting the teaching mission of Mines have been funded by this program. Additional details and a list of award recipients are online. Contact Kay Schneider for more information.

Mines Vision

Mines will be the premier institution, based on the impact of its graduates and research programs, in science and engineering relating to the Earth, Energy and Environment.

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