

Annual Assessment Report

Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2015-2016

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head. Christa Jones served as Associate Department Head. The department graduated 110 students this year. The department houses eight distinct majors and three additional “teaching” majors that are attached to our language majors. The department has 15 separate minors. The department was able to hire a new tenure track Assistant Professor, Harrison Kleiner (who moved from a Senior Lecturer position), a new main-campus lecturer, Justin Clark, in Philosophy and two lecturers for regional campus locations (Price and Blanding), Lisa Waite in ESL and Clinton Behunin in communication studies.

Three faculty members, Li Guo and Ko-Yin Sung in Chinese and Marcus Brasileiro in Portuguese were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Cacilda Rego in Portuguese was promoted to Full Professor. One of our lecturers, Karin deJonge-Kannan, was promoted to Principal Lecturer.

General Assessment of Faculty Performance: Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year the faculty members in the department have produced five books, forty-four journal articles, ten book chapters, and given eighty-six conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of LPCS benefited faculty over the last year has averaged over 58 on the summary converted score (which includes assessment of the course, the teacher, and how well the learning objectives were met). This is in the IDEA’s top 30% nationwide. In addition, 54 of the 205 classes reviewed (26%) scored in the top 10% nationally. To have our “average score” be in the “higher” category on this national form and so many courses ranked in the top ten percent speaks well for the department as a whole and the learning environment that exists overall. The department has also been actively supporting the college and university with many faculty serving on the senate, various college and university committees and teaching in the USU Connections program. This has been another strong year for the faculty in LPCS.

The following were given departmental awards and, if noted, college ones as well: Researcher of the Year – Joshua Thoms; Teacher of the Year – Nolan Weil; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – J.P. Spicer-Escalante; Faculty Service Award – Doris McGonagill; Undergraduate Adviser of the Year – Claudia Schwabe; Lecturer of the Year – Clair Canfield; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Yahlee Wang. In addition, Darla Moore won the college award for non-exempt “Outstanding Staff of the Year.” Our student research symposium and our student scholarship program continue to go well. We had 85 students give papers as part of the research symposium and typically had groups of around 20 students to watch each of the panels. The staff, faculty, and students in the department work together well and produce an excellent learning environment.