

Annual Assessment Report
Academic Year 2005-2006

The department was honored with the Departmental Teaching Excellence Award. This is a university-wide honor and will bring with it some additional operating funds that are greatly needed. It is an official recognition of something that the students and faculty connected to the department already know, the department is committed to quality teaching and helping their students learn in a variety of effective and creative ways.

This year, two new tenure-track faculty were hired along with a visiting instructor in German. All of these hires will begin their tenure at USU in the Fall of 2006. Bradford 'J' Hall from the University of New Mexico was hired as the new Department Head. Professor Hall's area of specialization is in the Speech Communication area of intercultural communication. He will be a welcome addition for the Speech Communication major which has seen rapid growth in the last two years. Cacilda Rego was hired as an Assistant Professor in Portuguese. This hire came at an important time as the Portuguese minor has been revamped to include not only skills courses, but culture and literature courses as well. In this regard, the minor now more closely matches the other language minors within the department. The Spanish program, which continues to have a very high number of majors, has strengthened their program by requiring an exit exam for majors and minors (SPAN 4990), increasing the required GPA at admission (2.75) and graduation (3.0 for major courses) and requiring both area seminars rather than just one.

The program continues to grow and develop at a fast pace.