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## A Message from the President's Office: President's Awards for Excellence + Fall Convocation Recording

4 messages

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Colleagues,

At Fall Convocation this past Wednesday, we honored this year's recipients of our annual President's Awards for Excellence, which recognize outstanding achievements of University faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond to serve Wilkes and who exemplify the core values of the University: scholarship, mentorship, innovation, diversity and community.

#### **Dr. Benjamin Toll: Outstanding Scholarship Award Recipient**



*Associate professor of political science*

This award recognizes a member of the community who has contributed significantly to their field. Scholarship may include traditional research, scholarship and contributions to fields and professions outside of academic areas. Dr. Toll was nominated for this award because of his research at national and regional political science conferences, involving students in his research and his participation in local, state, national and international media interviews related to American politics.

### **Catie Becker: Community Building Award Recipient**



*Director of civic engagement*

This award recognizes a member of the community who has made a lasting impact on the campus through team-building, collaboration and/or role-modeling. Catie was nominated for this award for her continuous ambition to support and feed our students as well as immerse them in the community and beyond.

### **Dr. Troy Lynn Lewis PharmD '17: Exceptional Contributions to Diversity Award Recipient**



*Associate professor of pharmacy practice*

This award recognizes a member of the community who has contributed significantly to advancing the inclusivity of the Wilkes community. Diversity is defined broadly and there can be myriad ways in which a member of the community exemplifies this core value. Dr. Lewis was nominated for this award because of her DEIA efforts within the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy by developing its own DEIA Task Force and continuing to be an advocate and sharing knowledge throughout the community.

**Dr. Deborah Zbegner: Outstanding Innovation Award Recipient***Dean of College of Health and Education*

This award recognizes a member of the community who has demonstrated creative problem-solving or seized an opportunity that has resulted in enriched experiences for students, faculty and staff, as well as positive improvements for the future of Wilkes. Dr. Zbegner was nominated for this award because of her vision behind the nursing programming, which led to the development of the Passan School of Nursing as well as proposing to the PA Department of Education an online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program at Wilkes, making it one of the first in the nation, and eventually launching the online graduate nursing program.

**Dr. Kimberly Ference '01, PharmD '03: Exceptional Mentorship Award Recipient***Associate professor of pharmacy practice*

This award recognizes a member of the community who has exemplified mentorship. Mentorship may include academic advising, mentoring, coaching and all other manner of support for students. Dr. Ference was nominated for this award due to her ability and passion for cultivating meaningful relationships with students across campus and helping to further their personal and professional growth. Her mentorship of the pharmacy lab coach position has culminated in a unique research opportunity recently published in the esteemed *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, showcasing the innovative and effective mentorship model Dr. Ference has created.

Congratulations to all our well-deserved recipients. Next year, we will expand the President's Awards program to include our two additional values - service and stewardship.