



Rick Thomas Chosen CLA and University Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor

Each year the Graduate School solicits nominations from across Purdue University – West Lafayette Campus for the Provost’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor. Nominees can be from any college/school but must be a current graduate faculty member on the West Lafayette campus. Rick Thomas has been chosen as the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor, and also for the Provost’s office for the university-wide award.

Nominees must demonstrate sustained and significant contributions to graduate education at Purdue University through activities such as:

- Well-structured relationships with students that lead to successful completion of masters and doctoral degrees. These relationships include service on committees, mentoring, funding, intellectual and creative support, advocacy, and respect for students;
- Innovative graduate teaching;
- Significant administration of graduate programs

Here is an excerpt from Dean Reingold’s letter to Rick:

“Your 42 years (1976-2018) of scholarly excellence set you apart as a top educator, mentor, advisor, and valuable administrator. The reviewers were extremely impressed with the instrumental role you play in recruiting top graduate students, your tireless and worthwhile efforts dedicated to teaching, networking, and mentorship that have led to several of your students being acknowledged for national awards of high prestige. They valued your invaluable knowledge of intricate technical details of theatrical sound design and aesthetic foundations of storytelling, your unique ability to tailor your program to the individual needs of your graduate students. The recurring theme from letters of recommendations and your proven record of accomplishments is your ability to take ordinary teaching practices and turn them into innovative experiences for students, staff, and the departmental productions. To say your record of accomplishments is impressive is an understatement. Your record is extraordinary and truly a model for all the rest of us!”

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