



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

BOTHELL

Office of the Chancellor and Dean

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DR. ANDREA KOVALESKY NAMED DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, BOTHELL

After 20 years of working as a pediatric nurse, Andrea Kovalesky wanted more from her career. She wanted to affect change in her field and impact others. Her journey of obtaining a Ph.D in Nursing Science at the University of Washington in 1991 and subsequent decision to begin teaching at the University of Washington, Bothell has made that dream of impacting others a reality.

Kovelesky has been named the University of Washington, Bothell's Distinguished Teacher of the Year.

Kovalesky will be recognized at the University of Washington, Bothell's Commencement, which will be held at Bank of America Arena at Hec Edmundson Pavillion on the University of Washington campus on June 10, 2001 at 2 p.m. Kovalesky will also receive a certificate, \$5,000, and be invited to lead a workshop or give a talk on her philosophy of teaching in a public forum in the fall of 2001.

Kovalesky says she recognized that her experience and education could be used to play a more significant role in training more qualified nurses to address health care's critical nursing shortage. With this understanding, Kovalesky began teaching RNs at the University of Washington, Bothell in 1997, sharing with them the first-hand knowledge and experience she has gleaned over the years.

"Dr. Kovalesky has a unique ability to relate to the class," says Gary Yurina, one of Kovalesky's students. "She encourages open discussion on issues, presents multiple sides of arguments, and stimulates thought-provoking discussion. Dr. Kovalesky demonstrates the difficult ability to make complicated abstract theory come alive."

Kovalesky's peers echo this sentiment. "Andrea has had a strong commitment to developing her skills as a teacher," says Anne Loustau, director of nursing at UWB. "She has listened to the feedback from students, reflected on this input, and made appropriate changes in her courses. Most importantly, Andrea cares about each of her students, considers their strengths as well as areas that might be challenged, and works with each student to maximize their learning and development as professional nurses."

In summing up Kovalesky's teaching style, she says her desire to be approachable to her students is paramount. "I've thought back to esteemed teachers in my life, and some of the overriding characteristics of those teachers were that they were approachable, thoroughly enjoyed the subjects that they taught, and genuinely cared about each student's success," she says. "I have tried to make these aspects the foundation of my own teaching philosophy."

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