Dr. Lori Guevara, an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University (FSU), has been named a recipient of the 2014 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is the highest honor given by the University Of North Carolina Board Of Governors for superior teaching. Guevara will be presented with an engraved bronze medallion and a $12,500 stipend by a member of the UNC Board of Governors at the 147th Spring Commencement in May.

Guevara has been a faculty member at FSU since August 2004, serving as department chair from 2007-2009. She has taught courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In particular, she has taught research methods and statistics, courses that students perceived as “difficult.” In these courses, students typically enter the classroom with fear and trepidation; in response, Guevara starts off with assignments that slowly build their confidence with these subjects, which allows students to be successful.

Guevara has also added to the curriculum to the Department of Criminal Justice. She created a new course — Criminal Justice Statistics — which allows students to complete a required course in their major department. Having students take this course within the major exposes them to situational examples that are familiar to them, thus making statistics less foreign and more achievable. Guevara also developed a service learning course that is a partnership with the local Guardian ad Litem program. This is a skills-based course that prepares students for careers in criminal justice. This course allows students to enhance their knowledge about working with juveniles and become trained to become Guardian ad Litem volunteers. Many criminal justice students wish to work in the juvenile justice field upon graduation, so this class/opportunity is a significant benefit as something they can list on their resumes, making them more marketable when applying for jobs.

“Dr. Lori Guevara is a valued member of the Department of Criminal Justice, as she sets the standard for the contemporary Teacher Scholar,” said Dr. Miriam DeLone, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice. “She has established an excellent rapport with her students by challenging them to fulfill her high standards for performance. Dr. Guevara accomplishes this by reinforcing the foundational skills students need to succeed. Students respond enthusiastically when she brings her research into the classroom and when she brings the community into the classroom (with service learning courses).”

Guevara earned a doctorate in 2001 in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the same institution where she received her Master of Science (1996) and Bachelor of Science (1989) in Criminal Justice degrees.

The UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award was established in 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to encourage, identify, recognize, reward, and support good teaching within the University. The award is presented to a member of the faculty of each of the 17 constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina.

FSU is the second-oldest public institution in North Carolina. A member of the University of North Carolina System, FSU has more than 6,100 students and offers degrees in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

For more information, please call (910) 672-1474.