

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Outstanding Faculty to be Honored at Conference

South Seattle Community College instructors Jessie McDonald, Worker Retraining, and Marjie Vittum-Jones, Mathematics, are to be honored this month with awards for excellence in teaching.

The awards will be presented in Austin, Texas by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at the organization's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence. McDonald and Vittum-Jones were selected for the honor based on recommendations submitted by faculty, staff, students, and administrators.

Both instructors are long-time SSCC faculty members, with nearly 50 years of dedicated service between them. McDonald is considered one of the most versatile instructors on campus. She has taught in technical and academic areas, as well as programs like Career Link and WorkForce Training, which combine technical and academic goals. She has been a leader in supporting and creating student success measurement tools, and has shared her expertise at national and statewide teaching and learning conferences. As technical editor, she was instrumental in preparing the college's 2000 Accreditation Self-Study Report, which was commended by the visiting accreditation team. She has also worked on numerous State Best Practices Grants as well as the Johns Hopkins University's National Science Foundation grant. She is known for her commitment to community college education and the many forms and variations that education can take.

Vittum-Jones has had a major impact on student success in math at SSCC. A self-described "lifelong learner," she continually seeks ways to provide the best learning environment for students, especially those who struggle with math. In the process, she has become a leader in developing innovative math instruction and retention efforts. She was a force behind the creation of the Math and Science Tutoring Center (MAST), highly regarded as one of the most successful student services on campus. She developed the Math Online program and the Modular Math Lab, both of which are designed to increase student success and retention in developmental courses. She is a past recipient of the Dan Evans Innovation Award, named for the former governor, and has earned numerous SSCC Foundation awards for excellence as well.

Additional information about NISOD and the Excellence Awards is available on their website at <http://www.nisod.org>.

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