



DR. CAROLYN WEST

As a student and staff member of the University of Washington Tacoma, I have the opportunity to interact with several faculty members throughout UW. However, few are as encouraging and approachable as Dr. West. She has had a very positive impact on my life and continues to inspire excellence in all aspects of my achievements and success; both academically and professionally. Her ability to integrate knowledge of community into teaching and learning is often reflected in her lectures and class discussions. For example, in her Family Violence class, Prof. West incorporates several community organizations and programs, including the YWCA's "In Her Shoes" which vividly depicts the difficulties and obstacles women face in domestic violence situations.

Dr. West exhibits a strong desire to serve our diverse student body, thus furthering the mission of the University to expand the boundaries of knowledge and discovery. She was instrumental in establishing UW Tacoma's Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program which teaches women to take an active role in their own self-defense and psychological well-being. A recipient of the Bartley Dobb Professorship for Study and Prevention of Violence, Dr. West remains a vital contributor to the education on the prevention of domestic violence, both on campus and within the community.

Dr. West demonstrates leadership in curriculum development, often in fields many in higher education fear to embrace. Her class on Human Sexuality is one that not only promotes thoughtful openness to a broad range of students' questions, but also utilizes creative instructional methods ensuring students are comfortable with the subject matter presented. Many students not only enjoy the course and pass on the knowledge to their peers, but often enthusiastically encourage others to take the class. Her Sexual Violence and Sexual Deviance classes further illustrate the need for continued education and awareness relating to sexuality, orientation, and abuse within various communities.

I personally have enjoyed Dr. West's mentorship, as she inspires not only me, but also everyone who has the opportunity to know her. In addition to her art of teaching and ability to work with a diverse student population, Dr. West provides exemplary leadership to our students, assisting them with all aspects of college life. She has an innate ability to motivate and involve others in a way that enhances student learning and involvement. Dr. West is clearly committed to the mission of the University, as well as the success of those around her.

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