

## Johnny Hu

---

**From:** Keri Parriera on behalf of Kathi Hiyane-Brown  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013 10:36 AM  
**Subject:** [PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT] Here They Are! The 2013 Puget Sound Energy Faculty Excellence Awards

Dear Campus Community,

I am honored to announce the recipients of the *Puget Sound Energy Faculty Excellence Awards for 2013*:

- **Johnny Hu** – Full-time Faculty Award
- **David Kehe** – Adjunct Faculty Award

These two epitomize the integrity and philosophy of the educational profession they have selected, demonstrated by their dedication to students and to our entire College community. Please let me take a moment to reflect individually on these exceptional faculty.

### **JOHNNY HU** – Full-time Faculty Award

Johnny Hu has made a significant impression on Whatcom during his first two years as a full-time math faculty. His connection with students is remarkable. As one student commented, “I have never seen someone who is so in tune with his students...He really has a method of teaching that makes those of us that dislike and struggle with math enjoy and learn from his class...we all agree that he makes math seem fun.” Another student said, “He really cares; he makes me care! He makes me feel confident in myself and I’ve been genuinely enjoying math.”

Promoting student success is foremost in his work. One student conveyed his dedication in this way, “He is constantly saying how he will do anything he can to help us succeed and just recently made an additional study group available to our class...If you are doing homework and are stuck, you can email him and he will respond right away (even at 11pm!).” Another shared that “Professor Hu invites questions and insists his students keep up with his website to stay on track. He demonstrates his commitment to each student by promoting the math lab and by making himself available to students even outside of office hours.” “He is always willing to help his students understand it [math] and make it fun. At the same time, he challenges them. His tests are difficult, but that makes his students study harder.”

His dedication to his discipline is confirmed by his work in the math department serving as the Math Department textbook coordinator, and in volunteering at the Math Center. He was active on the planning committee for the 2013 Washington State Community College Math

Conference held in Whatcom County. Johnny has also served on two hiring committees, the math center coordinator and full-time math faculty.

Johnny is committed to increasing multiculturalism on Whatcom's campus. A colleague noted: "He was selected to be a part of a group of highly motivated staff and faculty that created the mission statement for the Multicultural Academic Support Center (MASC)...With Johnny's support and effective communication skills, he helped create a foundation for the MASC that has helped legitimize its place on WCC's campus."

Johnny was instrumental in helping to lay the foundation for the newly established Diversity Committee by identifying and articulating the charge of this committee. Johnny will serve as chair of this committee, which will have its first meeting in fall 2013.

Always a supporter of student activities, Johnny served as one of the advisors who attended the 23rd annual Students of Color Conference. Staff shared that "Johnny helped with pre-conference planning, served as an advisor throughout the conference, and has been a support to students of color and allies on Whatcom's campus. He has identified himself as a safe ally who is open to have courageous conversations with students, staff, and faculty... Johnny supports students and tries to attend club meetings, specifically the Ethnic Student Association, the Dream Team, the Queer Straight Alliance, Synergy, and the Math Club."

In addition, Johnny serves as a board member for the local Northwest Chinese Cultural Association (NWCCA). He co-hosted and performed at the annual NWCCA Chinese's New Year celebration that was held at Whatcom Community College.

Thank you, Johnny Hu, for your dedication to the field of mathematics, and for the enlightening ways you share this knowledge with students. The College is also grateful for your commitment to diversity and service to the college and the community.

#### **DAVID KEHE – Adjunct Faculty Award**

Whatcom is very fortunate to David Kehe on our English as a Second Language (ESL) faculty. A leader in the field of ESL, Dave has published five textbooks and several articles, and presents frequent at conferences throughout the US and Canada. More importantly, as one faculty put it, "is his knowledge of current TESL methodology and his willingness to share his knowledge and experience with all of us, usually in a humble way."

"His genuine concern for each student's success is impressive, and he consistently goes far beyond the normal expectations of an instructor. He spends huge amounts of time, much of it outside regular classroom hours, reviewing work with students an offering suggestions and additional instruction," shared a colleague of Dave's. This demonstrates his exceptional dedication to our students and their continued success. Another student added, "He really

cares about his students and I think that's what pushes us to work and do well," said one of his students. He continued: "[Dave Kehe] taught me how to write different types of essays, how to fix my mistakes and also how to correctly use punctuation, which was really hard for me. The fact that I knew that David was interested in my work pushed me to produce essays of even better quality."

"As a colleague, David is supportive and encouraging." He has always gone out of his way to share positive feedback with me when the occasion arises." Small gestures like sending positive email comments and sharing his materials with his colleagues illustrate his exceptional merit as an instructor and coworker. "His motivation, I'm sure, was not only to make me feel comfortable with my new assignment, but also to ensure that students would get the best possible experience in class..."

Thank you, David Kehe, for devoting 16 plus years of sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our ESL students, and helping Whatcom to fulfill its mission to prepare students for active citizenship in a global society.

Congratulations, Johnny Hu and Dave Kehe, on being selected as our 2013 Puget Sound Energy Faculty Excellence Award winners. You both exemplify the term "excellence" in this award.

Also, thanks to all of you, faculty, staff and students, who participated in this recognition tribute to our Whatcom faculty by submitting nominations. We have an outstanding faculty from which to choose.

President Kathi

Kathi Hiyane-Brown  
President

**Whatcom**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

237 W Kellogg Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
360.383.3330

Khiyane-brown@whatcom.ctc.edu