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Contact: Michele J. Barrett
Phone: (315) 443-6172
mibarret@syr.edu

Karen Kirkhart named 2013 United Methodist Scholar Teacher

Karen E. Kirkhart, M.S.W., Ph.D., professor in the School of Social Work in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, has been named the **2013 United Methodist Scholar Teacher of the Year** in recognition of outstanding teaching and scholarship. This award emphasizes the dual nature of a faculty member's responsibilities as a scholar and teacher. In the spring semester of the academic year, the Chancellor selects the recipient. Kirkhart will be honored on May 3 during a special ceremony at the Falk College's faculty meeting, with vice chancellor and provost, Eric F. Spina, presenting the award.

Kirkhart began as a lecturer in the School of Social Work in 1986. In that role, she was responsible for teaching SWK 770, "Clinical Practice Evaluation." She quickly moved up to associate professor, a role she filled until 1998. As an associate professor, she taught M.S.W. courses in the research curriculum areas. She was tenured in 1990. As a full professor since 1999, Kirkhart continues to teach courses in the research curriculum area. She also teaches courses in the Renée Crown Honors Program, the Program and Women and Gender Studies and the human behavior and social environment portion of the B.S.S.W. program.

"On the Syracuse University campus, Karen's reputation is that of a caring and compassionate professor with high expectations for her students," says Diane Lyden Murphy, dean of the Falk College. "Not only does she role model the highest personal and professional standards by example in her work inside and outside of the classroom, but she helps all students achieve their fullest potential by taking the time with them collectively and individually."

Kirkhart is the author or co-author of numerous papers in academic journals. She has also been the presenter of many workshops and in-service training sessions. Since 2006, she has been invited to present with Rodney K. Hopson a workshop on "Strengthening Evaluation through Cultural Relevance and Cultural Competence" at the American Evaluation Association/Centers for Disease Control Summer Institute.

Her honors and awards include the Distinguished Faculty Award from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Syracuse University Chapter in 2009; the SU School of Social Work's Teacher of the Year Award in 1996 and 1998; the Distinguished Service Award from the American Psychological Association, Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service, in 1988 and 1993; and the SU School of Social Work's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 1987 and 1988.

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