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UNIVERSITY *of*
WASHINGTON

TACOMA

Presentations from
2015 Distinguished Community
Engagement Award Recipients:
Marcy Stein, Diane Kinder, Kathy
Zapp, & Michael Kula

"TACOMA THEATER PROJECT"
AND
**"IMPROVING TEACHER PREPARATION
THROUGH WORKING WITH COMMUNITY
PARTNERS"**

On Thursday, the Third of December, Twenty-Fifteen
in the Dawn Lucien Board Room

A Social Time will be held from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.
The Presentations will begin at 3:30 p.m.

A brief Question and Answer Time will follow each Presentation



University of Washington Tacoma
1900 Commerce St, Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone: (253) 692-4000

**2015 DISTINGUISHED
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Award Recipient:

Michael Kula, Assistant Professor,
School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

Presentation: Tacoma Theater Project

The Tacoma Theater Project was born out of discussions in Michael Kula's playwriting class that focused on the number of students who had never experienced a professionally staged play and the desire of a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies to create a nonprofit theater company. It was fueled by a culture of community engagement at UW Tacoma according to Kula, and has resulted in inclusive and relevant theater on campus as well as new mutually beneficial relationships between the school and the community.

The committee was impressed with the growth and expansion of the Tacoma Theater Project, but also with the fundamentally collaborative approach to institution-building taken by Michael Kula. In addition, Kula was invited to present this model of collaboration at the conference of the Coalition of Urban Serving and Metropolitan Universities, while his essay, "Zip Car Theater," was accepted for publication in Metropolitan Universities. The connections to the community are indeed strong. One letter of support said, "I have been moved, impressed, and now entirely immersed in helping realize Michael's unique and exciting vision for extending the performing arts at UWT to include a vibrant collaborative theatre model."

The committee commends the Tacoma Theater Project for its deliberate engagement with partners, its thoughtfulness about long-term collaboration, and Michael Kula's successes in integrating a community-engaged ethic into his own professional work.



**2015 DISTINGUISHED
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Award Recipients:

Dr. Marcy Stein, Professor, Education; Dr. Diane Kinder, Professor,
Education; Kathy Zapp, RIT Grant Coordinator & Field Supervisor,
Education

Presentation: Improving Teacher Preparation through Working with
Community Partners

Communities in Schools in Tacoma and Project RTI (Response to Intervention) are two related projects designed to have a direct and measurable impact on underperforming K-8 students, teachers and schools in the South Sound, with long term partners in the Franklin Pierce School District. This partnership has resulted in measurable improvement in student performance while also exposing these students to individuals who value higher education and bringing them to the UW Tacoma campus.

The committee was particularly impressed with the thoughtfulness and rigor of outcomes and assessments, and the implementation of evidence-based practices. Examples include the integration of learnings from the partnership into teacher education at UW Tacoma; and the employment of our graduates in the partner schools.

One letter of support said, "Project RTI has an amazing track record of focusing on those instructional practices that are most likely to result in student success...The University/School Partnership model that they have designed is surely one that should be replicated as one of the strategies for improving the lives of students in poverty." The committee commends this faculty-staff team for building sustainable partnerships with long term positive impacts on teaching, learning, and our community.

