COE Faculty Wins University-Wide Excellence Award

August 21, 2015

Associate Professor Lina Soares, Department of Teaching and Learning, received the University-wide award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction for 2015-2016 during Fall Convocation earlier this month. The award is one of three annual Awards in Excellence which include Excellence in Instruction, Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity and Excellence in Service. The program was established in 1985 to “recognize and reward faculty for exceptional achievements and to provide opportunities for faculty development.”

Soares won the Jack Miller Award for Educator of the Year in 2014 which she said led to her nomination for the Award for Excellence. “I am very honored and feel proud to receive an award from my peers because it is the University Faculty Development Committee that makes the determination,” Soares said. Her work centers on critical pedagogy and critical literacy, content-area literacy, adolescent literacy, teacher education and gifted education.

The Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction focuses on the faculty member’s contributions to the teaching-learning process at the institutional level. The award winner must demonstrate excellence in the classroom as well as “making contributions to the discipline and to the overall institutional mission.”

“Dr. Soares is a respected and valued member of the COE faculty. As a College focused on preparing educators and educational leaders we’re honored to have one of our own recognized for this special award, especially in the area of the teaching-learning process,” said COE Dean Thomas Koballa.