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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

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Local/Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--An Eastern Illinois University faculty member has been honored for "creative teaching" by the National Science Teachers' Association.

Dr. Michael B. Leyden, Department of Elementary and Junior High Education, will receive the Ohaus Award at the Association's convention in Chicago April 1-5. The award, named for Gustave Ohaus, a New Jersey businessman, is a national competition for teaching innovations. Leyden is the only university educator to be selected.

His selection was based on a paper titled "Processing/Synecotics: Hope For The Timid And The Timeless." It expresses curriculum philosophy that characterizes a course he teaches called "Science In The Elementary School."

Leyden believes that science often has a low priority in the elementary school for two major reasons: teachers are either "science shy" or they enjoy the subject but don't have time to teach it.

He said using a process approach "allows teachers to alter insecure perceptions and that gives hope for the timid." Synectics is an innovation "that can relieve time constraints in the busy daily schedule of elementary teachers and that offers hope for the timeless."

In addition to receiving the award, Leyden will make five presentations at the Chicago convention on brain functioning, science activities for the elementary school, life science for the junior high school, science methods for the middle school, and a panel discussion on science education.

Leyden received a Distinguished Faculty Award at Eastern in 1980 and an Outstanding Faculty Merit Award for teaching excellence in 1981.