

7-27-1993

07/27/1993 - Sutton Recognized For Innovative Teaching.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1993

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "07/27/1993 - Sutton Recognized For Innovative Teaching.pdf" (1993). 1993. 612.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1993/612

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1993 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

93-211

July 27, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUTTON RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING

CHARLESTON, IL--Ken Sutton approaches education much like a businessman views customer service--"the key to success is having satisfied customers."

The Eastern Illinois University professor of secondary education and foundations says his success as a teacher rests with the belief that students should be treated as "customers."

"I work hard to satisfy my customers," said Sutton, who for the past 23 years on the Eastern faculty has used innovative techniques in the classroom to keep his customers content and coming back for more intellectual stimulation.

The professor's teaching ability, research and creative activity and service to the university are what contributed to his recent selection as Eastern's 1993-94 Distinguished Professor.

The award is given annually by the Board of Governors Universities trustees to an outstanding faculty member on campus. Sutton was nominated for the honor by his peers. The award carries a salary increase.

Sutton supplements his lectures with computer games to keep

-more-

FILE COPY

students interested in his theory-based education classes.

He has created "computer packages" whereby students explore their individual philosophical foundations of education.

"Students have different learning styles and it's important that you give them variety, especially if you teach required courses as I do," Sutton said.

He has undertaken a major new venture for his department by developing a new course required of all teacher certification candidates.

Sutton is currently producing a television colloquium series for the new course which deals with cultural diversity in schools and prepares future teachers for handling this diversity.

He actually lived some of the progress made in this area. He grew up in the South and attended segregated schools. Subsequent experiences have led him to remark: "I think we have made some strides in teaching students about diversity, but we must continue to expand our efforts. Students living in a rural area, such as Charleston, are at a disadvantage."

Besides writing software packages and video scripts for his classes, Sutton conducts research and publishes in the areas of correctional education, multi-cultural education, gerontology and values education.

He has taught adult education classes at Vandalia Correctional Center. He also has taken classes on site to the Mattoon Adult Center, Lake Land College and other adult education insti-

tutions.

The Charleston resident, who knew in junior high school that he wanted to be a college instructor but became a minister first, also contributes his success as a teacher to the fact that there is always something to learn.

"My advice is not to involve yourself in a profession that you will be thoroughly good at with ease. Always leave yourself room for improvement and challenge for tomorrow," he said.

"It also helps to have supportive administrators who will let you try new things," he added.

In addition to teaching, Sutton invests an equal amount of energy and commitment in service to the university. He has served as chairman of three of the most distinguished councils on campus: the Faculty Senate, Council on Graduate Studies and Council on Academic Affairs.

Sutton earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religion from Kentucky Wesleyan College and master's and doctorate in educational foundations from the University of New Mexico.

His wife, Pat, is a speech pathologist for Neoga public schools.