Professor Recognized for Career Achievements

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Lindsey Shirley, an associate professor in Utah State University’s School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education, recently received the Outstanding Young Professional Award from the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

The award is given annually to an Iowa State University alumnus to recognize remarkable early career achievements.

Shirley, who has taught at USU since 2008, trains future family and consumer science teachers and has grown enrollment in that program by 50 percent. Shirley also developed an Extension education program that promotes the reuse and repurposing of clothing. She incorporates this idea into her popular general education class, “Dress and Humanity.” The class produces an annual recycled materials fashion show that doubles as a service project and has become an annual highlight of College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Week.

“I've seen the positive impacts that family and consumer sciences can have on individuals and families,” Shirley said. “My work is focused on trying to make an even greater impact.”

Additionally, Shirley created a new Outdoor Product Design & Development degree program that was implemented this fall. This degree is the first of its kind anywhere in the nation. Shirley became aware of the somewhat unique mix of skills outdoor clothing and equipment companies seek when they look for employees.

Shirley worked closely with a variety of companies to create a bachelor’s degree built on courses that develop those skills. In addition, companies in the industry are supporting the program with scholarship funds and equipment.

“This will be great for the state of Utah,” Shirley said. “This will meet a need in the state. Utah is a premier place for outdoor recreation and we will become the premier place for outdoor recreation product development.”

In addition to the award from her alma mater, Shirley has also received honors such as the Educator of the Year Award from the Family and Consumer Sciences Education Association and Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, a Teaching Award of Merit from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, and the Leader Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

For more information about Shirley’s work, visit her website at http://www.lindseymshirley.com/ or view her talk at TEDxUSU, A Journey Behind the Seams, at http://tedx.usu.edu/event/lindsey-shirley/.

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