

Dr. Warner Receives Honor from WV Academy of Science



Dr. John Warner, professor of sociology, Emeritus, at West Virginia Wesleyan College, was honored by the West Virginia Academy of Science (WVAS) for his service and lifetime dedication to their organization. In appreciation for Warner's commitment to their organization, the West Virginia Academy of Science's Outstanding Teacher Award was named in his honor and will now be known as the Dr. John Warner Outstanding Teacher Award.

"It is certainly a thrill and an honor," remarked Dr. Warner. The honor was announced at the Academy of Science's 82nd annual meeting at Marshall University. He has been a member of the Academy since 1971, and a member of the executive committee since 1979. He has performed numerous roles for the Academy from president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and to his current position now as editor of their journals.

The journals consist of submitted papers, manuscripts, and reports from leading educators from West Virginia's scientific community. "Although I have served many roles, it is as editor that I have helped the organization most," stated Dr. Warner. "When I took over the position as editor in 2005, the Academy was almost 10 years behind in publishing the journal. Now in just a little over two years, the journals are almost up to date."

It was his primary work as editor that led to the WVAS naming the Outstanding Teacher Award in his honor. "Dr. John Warner was honored by the West Virginia Academy of Science for his outstanding work as editor of the proceedings of the WVAS," remarked Dr. Donald D. Gray, president-elect of the WVAS and professor of civil and environmental engineering and engineering and mineral resources at West Virginia University. "Due to health problems, the previous editor had been unable to perform his duties resulting in several years of unpublished issues. Dr. Warner took on the arduous task of editing these "lost" issues and has gotten almost all of them printed and distributed. This has been a vital service to the WVAS, the authors, and to the community of scientists who study aspects of West Virginia."

Marcia Harrison, chair of the WV Junior Academy of Science and professor of biological sciences at Marshall University, added, "We distributed a plaque to Dr. Warner with the following inscription: "In appreciation for Dr. John Warner's service to the West Virginia Academy of Science, the Outstanding Teacher Award will henceforth be named in his honor. March 31, 2007, Marshall University, Huntington, WV"

The newly named Dr. John Warner Outstanding Teaching Award is presented to a West Virginia high school science or mathematics teacher at the WVAS annual meeting.

The WVAS was founded at West Virginia University in 1924. The purpose of the society is to 'bring about a closer affiliation among scientists of the State and to organize as a group to national recognition'.

Dr. Warner earned a B.A. from Baker University in 1958 and a S.T.B. and a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1962 and 1968, respectively. He began teaching at Wesleyan in 1970 as an assistant professor of sociology. He retired from the College in 2005.

He has received numerous distinctions during his career at Wesleyan, including the Distinguished Faculty Award on four separate occasions. The Honors Program Faculty award bore his name as the Warner Outstanding Faculty Award for five years running. In 2005, he was selected by Governor Joe Manchin as the recipient for the Governor's Civil Rights Day Award. A retired ordained United Methodist minister, Dr. Warner is a contributing columnist for The Charleston Gazette.