

ADJUNCT FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR INSTRUCTION

Christopher Allen, Ph.D.



CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, PH.D. serves as a senior adjunct instructor in the psychology department at Portland State University. He has been teaching at Portland State University since 2011 and has twice been awarded the John Eliot Alan outstanding teaching award. Allen draws on a rich background of working in clinical psychology and organizational psychology and regularly teaches for PSU in the area of abnormal psychology and personality theory. More recently, Allen teaches classes on the psychology of happiness and Tibetan Buddhism, including live streaming virtual education abroad classes from Tibet and Nepal, along with his co-teacher and spouse, who was raised in Tibet.

Larry Martinez, associate professor and chair of the PSU Department of Psychology, said “Allen is an exemplary example of what I believe this award seeks to recognize. He isn’t just a great instructor. He’s a great instructor who is also innovative, tireless and dedicated to providing the very best educational experience for our students. He brings his wealth of knowledge and practical experience as a professional psychologist to the classroom in ways that weave effortlessly with lecture material to facilitate learning in ways that are extremely engaging and effective. I myself learned a great deal by observing his class, both about the lecture content and about impressively effective pedagogy.”

Allen would like to dedicate his award to his students and let them know he feels honored to be their teacher. He wishes them happiness and wants them to know that he sees their struggles and joys and appreciates being together on a learning journey with them. He would also like to dedicate this award to the passionate and devoted adjunct faculty members at Portland State University where he has served as an executive council member for the Portland State University Faculty Association union and has heard many important stories from across the university about the commitment and caring of adjunct faculty members. Finally, Allen would like to dedicate this award to the deans, department managers and office staff in the Department of Psychology who have made it possible to enjoy his years of teaching while keeping up with the paperwork and technology.

The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of Portland State University adjunct faculty and their excellence as instructors.