

Mrs. Pfeiffer honored for excellence in teaching

By **ROBERT L. McCOY**

Every year, Wayne Community College selects one teacher to receive the George E. Wilson Excellence in Teaching Award, which is one of the most prestigious faculty awards at the college.

Candidates for the award are selected in an anonymous nomination process, and then are carefully analyzed and evaluated.

The George E. Wilson Award is a merit based award.

The criteria for being chosen, after the anonymous nomination, closely follow the criteria of the R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award, which is for excellence in teaching throughout the state of North Carolina.

After a winner is selected, the winner is then sent to participate in the R. J. Reynolds process.

Last year's recipient of the George E. Wilson Excellence in Teaching Award was Patricia "Patty" Pfeiffer, who is a nursing instructor at Wayne Community College.

Patricia Pfeiffer has been teaching at Wayne Community College since 1994. Prior to

teaching, she actively served in the United States Army as a parachute rigger. After her active service, she went into the Army Reserves and began college courses at Wayne Community College.

She graduated from Wayne Community College in 1988 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing.

Since graduating from Wayne, she has also acquired a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree from East Carolina University, a Master of Science in Nursing from East Carolina University, and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.

She originally began pre-med right after high school, but soon changed her mind and joined the military. It was while she was in the military that she began to be interested in nursing.

Mrs. Pfeiffer is the wife of Tim Pfeiffer, and mother of two daughters. Holly, the older of the two, is a student at Wayne Community College. April is a senior at Rosewood High School and has plans to attend Wesleyan College next year.

Mrs. Pfeiffer is a nursing



Photo by **ROBERT L. McCOY**
Patricia Pfeiffer, left, and Nicole Anders, administrative assistant for Allied Health, review some paperwork.

instructor at the college during the fall and spring semesters.

Rather than take a break between semesters, she spends her summers working as a practicing nurse.

When she was asked how she reacted when hearing she was nominated for the George E. Wilson Award, Mrs. Pfeiffer responded, "I was surprised, and I felt gratitude and appreciation all at the same time because it

felt great to know that my work is being noticed and appreciated by my peers and my students, some of whom thought I should be nominated.

"It makes you feel good."

Mrs. Pfeiffer was not the only faculty member nominated. Since the nomination is anonymous, who was nominated, who nominated them, and why they were nominated are all kept confidential.

In the end though, Mrs. Pfeiffer was chosen as the winner, and her name was anonymous no longer.

After winning, Mrs. Pfeiffer participated in the statewide R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award nomination.

The award is presented in Raleigh.

On Nov. 16, 2007, Mrs. Pfeiffer participated in the final round of the R.J. Reynolds Award nominations, where she was one of five finalists.

At graduation this month, WCC's next Excellence in Teaching award winner will be announced.

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