The Journal of General Education Announces Inaugural Reviewer of the Year

Dr. Vicki L. Reitenauer Receives Inaugural Review of the Year Award from JGE

East Lansing, MI — 1/27/2020 — On January 17, 2020, the Journal of General Education (JGE) recognized Dr. Vicki L. Reitenauer as its first-ever Reviewer of the Year, honoring the vital and generous work of peer review that too often remains invisible in academic publishing.

“Peer review is the very soil from which high-quality scholarship grows,” said Dr. Christopher P. Long, Editor of the Journal of General Education. “When the thoughtful, difficult, and complex practices of peer review go unrecognized, they languish.”

To nurture peer review, Dr. Long and managing editor, Bethany Laursen, modeled the new award after the same award established by the journal Language Testing. Both awards put into practice the principles of the Mellon-funded HumetricsHSS Initiative, also led by Dr. Long, which seeks to define more humane indicators of excellence in academia.

Dr. Reitenauer’s review exemplified the arts of liberty that JGE values and champions—including humility, generosity, critical discernment, collegiality, and helpfulness. She has received a plaque (pictured) and soon, a small monetary reward and recognition in the next issue of JGE (in press). The plaque is mounted on wood from a Black Cherry tree from JGE’s Managing Editor, Bethany Laursen’s, front yard, cut, milled, planed, and finished by her with help from others. It symbolizes that our scholarly community grows by personal effort joined with histories that stretch before and beyond us.

Figure 1: A wooden block with a black metal plate stands on a desk in the foreground; a Christmas tree is in the background. The metal plate reads, “The Journal of General Education Hereby Recognizes Vicki Reitenauer As Its Inaugural Reviewer of the Year 2019.”

The Award Criteria

Established in July 2019, the award description reads:

“The Journal of General Education values, champions, and rewards practicing the arts of liberty in all realms of higher education, including in the classroom and in the publishing process. To that end, JGE has established a ‘Reviewer of the Year’ award that recognizes a reviewer who has exemplified the arts of liberty in their conduct with JGE that year. Specifically, the Award recognizes a reviewer who:

1. Provides quality feedback to the authors and editors. That is, the feedback is:
a. Knowledgeable about the content  
b. Open and resourceful  
c. Collegial and kind  
2. Provides feedback that has a strong, positive impact on the publication(s),  
3. Completes reviews on time or early, and  
4. Has completed multiple reviews for the journal (if applicable).

The Awardee is selected by the JGE Editorial Team through an internal evaluation process.”

About Dr. Reitenauer

Dr. Reitenauer teaches in Portland State University’s general education program, University Studies, and PSU’s women’s studies program. Dr. Reitenauer’s review exemplified the arts of liberty our journal champions: she was kind, generous, and constructive, and her feedback improved the manuscript under review. We should not be surprised at the quality of Dr. Reitenauer’s review as her website biography attests that she “helps students use reflective thinking and writing in the service of working collaboratively with community organizations to make positive change.” This is the sort of character and work Dr. Reitenauer offers daily “in order to bring our best selves to our communities.” JGE is grateful for Dr. Reitenauer’s conscientious work and her ongoing engagement with the journal. She has already conducted another exemplary review for the journal, with that article now undergoing revisions.

About the Journal of General Education

1946, the Journal of General Education is a long-time leader in the philosophy and practice of general education. The journal publishes critical reflections, reports of innovative practices, research and evaluation articles, and book reviews that explore general education as a distinctive cornerstone of the arts of liberty that prepare citizens to live engaged, responsible, and meaningful lives.

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For more information on the Award and the Journal:  
http://www.psupress.org/journals/jnls_jge.html