



Stephen Porter

Steve and I go back a long way in our friendship and collegial relationship. Having an opportunity to comment on his teaching and professional accomplishments is an honor.

We both came to academe from working in the business sector. Steve was and still is a great salesman. In 1982 our paths crossed while teaching at small, private colleges in Wichita, Steve at Friends and me at Newman. Steve's concern for students getting a quality business degree brought us to creating a shared schedule of courses that students could take from both colleges to complete a degree. This idea of sharing the opportunities for courses across small colleges worked well and spread to other areas of study for both colleges. Steve carried this forward for several years at Friends University.

Our friendship and discussions continued over the next few years as I left Newman to pursue a doctorate at Oklahoma State University. After returning to Wichita and joining the WSU faculty in 1987, Steve informed me of his career decision to seek his doctorate in business at Oklahoma State University. I am told that it was partly my fault that he did this. Through our ongoing discussions of the experiences of doctoral studies, it took Steve little time to make his decision to go for the full academic credential he was so clearly suited for. After completing his PhD at OSU, Steve taught very successfully at Oklahoma City University for several years. We kept in touch and when the Barton School needed another great, student oriented, caring, faculty and leader, I called Steve and told him of a faculty position at WSU and that it was time to get back to Wichita. Steve joined the Barton School faculty in the fall of 1995.

As a faculty member Dr. Porter is a clear example of the value of blending work experience in the business world with student learning. His passion for helping students see the value and opportunity in studying marketing and particularly sales, has brought many students to rewarding professional and personal achievements. Students comments regarding Steve in the classroom are that he is tough, fair, participatory, inspirational, caring, and that he gives good advice. Steve's teaching efforts have been formerly recognized by receiving the Moore Family (teaching) Fellowship in Business, the Barton School Graduate Teaching Award twice, and the Regents Teaching Award. His championing of the study of sales in the marketing discipline has produced a minor in personal selling in the Barton School. His engaging teaching style exemplifies the long-held Marketing Department philosophy of experienced based learning. Steve has been the Chair of the Marketing Department since 2008. As the entire University moved to an applied learning approach, Steve and the Marketing Department were front and center with ideas and leadership.

Dr. Porter has been a committed student advocate for nearly 40 years. This recognition is certainly well deserved not only for the time it represents at this University, but for the way in which Steve's time was spent in the service of students, the University, and the profession. In closing I will let the students speak by sharing some comments about Dr. Porter that all in this profession would find gratifying: "His class was tough, but very informative. "I can see how I will use the information a lot." "I would certainly take this class again in a minute."