

Bender
of
Twigs



Sue Abdinnour

“I really hope Dr. Abdinnour accepts our offer,” I said to colleagues after we interviewed her for a faculty position in the Barton School. “She has solid academic credentials and excellent teaching evaluations.

Although the interview occurred 25 years ago while I was serving as dean, I remember vividly the strong positive impression Sue made on both faculty and administrators. And over her two-plus decades of service at the Barton School, Sue’s contributions have surpassed our lofty expectations formed during her interview.

Because of Sue’s outstanding record, the Barton School awarded her the position of Omer Distinguished Professor. She also served honorably as the Chair of the Finance, Real Estate and Decision Sciences Department for two terms, and she recently created and championed the Master of Science in Business Analytics program. Although there are risks in all program start-ups, enrollment in the MS in Business Analytics has been dramatic – surpassing everyone’s expectations by attracting hundreds of students from far and wide.

When serving as the Interim Director of the Center for Management Development, I asked Sue to instruct professional development programs for practicing management professionals, and she always performed exceptionally well. Sue’s teaching talents are very rare. I have sat in on some of Sue’s sessions, and I marveled at how she connected with all participants – even though there was great disparity in their knowledge and skill levels.

Sue is a model of what a university professor should be. She has published extensively in high-level journals, delivered outstanding instruction to Barton School students and industry professionals, partnered with industry stakeholders to solve challenges, and improve business practices, and made significant contributions through her multiple service commitments.

Dr. Sue’s contributions have absolutely enhanced the Barton brand, and it has been my distinct privilege to work alongside her during these 25 years.