



*David L. Kohlstedt, 2014–15 Distinguished Teacher
Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Teaching Award*

David L. Kohlstedt's record of 14 years on his departmental graduate studies committee reflects both his own dedication and his colleagues' respect. Upon arrival at the University in 1989, he began a now-legendary course in rock and mineral physics that still has mineral physicists worldwide seeking his lecture notes. He also became the gold standard for colleagues on how to be an effective graduate adviser.

"The 'Kohlstedt Model' is to identify a general problem with a student and then give them the freedom to pursue it," says a former Ph.D. student. "Students in his group felt they 'owned' their projects, and it made them independent researchers."

Kohlstedt holds regular meetings for his graduate (and some undergrad) students and postdocs to keep each

other up to date on their research, constructively criticize each other, and solve problems together. He also sees that his students learn how to communicate science, and has given them real-world experience working with scientists from around the world. His former students include professors at some of the world's top academic institutions.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the academic field of experimental high temperature rock mechanics is dominated by former students and postdocs from the Minnesota lab," says a colleague.

Another former Ph.D. student notes, "In my career, when I indicate that I did my work with David, the response is always the same: 'What a wonderful scholar, what a wonderful person.'" ❧

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"One measure of success is crossing the tipping point at which I become learner as well as teacher, and students and more senior researchers become peers sharing the excitement of learning and discovery."

