



Outstanding Young Educator Award: A Washington State Recognition Award

For achieving excellence in instructional leadership in teaching and learning.

Dr. Suzann Girtz, Assistant Professor
Teacher Education Department, Gonzaga University

Dr. Girtz' impact begins in higher education with her work with pre-service teachers, and builds in the K-12 setting, impacting the lives of children in the classroom. Her ability to motivate, support, and transform educators as they move through the education program at Gonzaga University is nothing less than outstanding. Her beliefs and behaviors make her an excellent role model for future teachers.

Suzann is passionate about her students and their learning. She has a strong sense of purpose that is centered in helping her students to be successful and transform into highly qualified educators. Her area of expertise is assessment and research. Dr. Girtz has the ability to make it understandable, ensuring that concepts are taught in a relevant and coherent manner. She is consistently taking what is happening in schools back to her classroom, developing learning labs that are grounded in the principles of a professional learning community.

Dr. Girtz has a rigorous professional development agenda with service to improving PK-12 education at the center. She has presented at numerous conferences and has several publications that help inform fellow educators on current trends in education. Dr. Girtz has also authored a new book (2013) entitled, *Educating Millennials Born Between 1980 and 1994: The Chief Problems in Teaching this Age Group*. The book describes a conceptual and practical blue-print designed for formal and informal leaders in the secondary education system to help transform the secondary schoolhouse into a true culture for learning.

Dr. Suzann Girtz is an excellent model for applying learning to real life, as well as staying relevant with current practices and upcoming changes in the field of education. She does an exemplary job of attending to accreditation for programs, concerns with programmatic issues, and keeping students and colleagues motivated and on track to succeed.