Written by Dana Jordan, Daily Vidette Staff Writer
Sunday, 19 February 2012 15:18

Brent Paterson was awarded the Neal R. Gamsky Quality of Student Life Award for his student motivation and interest in their personal, social, and academic success.

Paterson is the senior associate vice president for Student Affairs where he oversees the Bone Student Center, Braden Auditorium, Campus Dining Services, Campus Recreation, University Housing Services, and the University Police.

Paterson enjoys working with Student Government Association and teaching in the master's degree program, College Student Personnel Administration.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to help future student affairs professionals learn more about Student Affairs and prepare for their careers," Paterson said.

"Teaching also helps me keep current with the research and trends in student affairs and higher education," he added.

Among his many awards include the Team Excellence Award for his role in the Campus Master Plan Team, and the D. Parker Young Award for outstanding scholarly and research contributions for higher education law and judicial affairs.

He is the editor of the Journal of Student Conduct Administration and has published over 30 articles, as well as co-authored three books on higher education.

"Brent is a knowledgeable, thoughtful, and student-centered professional who balances students' needs within institutional priorities," Larry Dietz, vice president for Student Affairs, said.

"He has worked diligently with the directors and staff to ensure students are being served at high quality levels," he added.

A nomination letter written by Danielle Miller-Schuster, assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs, described Paterson as "genuinely and wholly dedicated to promoting excellence and enriching the lives of [ISU] students."

Zach Owens, student body president, also contributed to the nomination saying "I have worked with many dedicated, talented people in the Division of Student Affairs, but [Paterson] truly embodies what every person in Student Affairs should possess."

Paterson said he is honored and humbled that others believe he is deserving of this award. He is pleased to be associated with the long line of Gamsky Award winners who have made such an impact on students' lives.

"[Paterson] works diligently and always with students at the center of his work," Dietz said.

"I am proud to have him as a colleague and delighted he was awarded the Gamsky Award," he added.

According to Paterson, the best part of his job is mentoring young students and staff.

“It is a joy to see them develop personally and professionally and I keep in touch with many students I have mentored throughout my career.” Paterson said.

“I believe we are educators outside the classroom as well and have an obligation to help students learn life skills that will not only benefit them while at ISU, but also throughout their lives,” he added.