

## The 2004 NCA award winners

At each annual convention, the members of NCA honor those in the Association whose teaching, scholarship and service have demonstrated excellence and distinction. The following lists the award recipients along with the announcements made of their awards at a ceremony on Saturday, November 14, 2004, at the Hilton Chicago.

### AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

#### Marcella E. Oberle Award for Outstanding Teaching in Grades K-12

This award was created to honor individuals who teach the kindergarten through twelfth grade level and who have exhibited both outstanding teaching and a commitment to the speech communication profession. The 2004 recipient was:

**Connie J. Link**  
*Heyworth High School*

Connie J. Link has dedicated herself to helping students in the areas of forensics, theatre, debate, speech, and communication education. Teaching six classes a day, she keeps her students involved in literary studies, composition,

and speaking activities. Link has also built one of the most competitive speech programs in the state of Illinois. Her teams consistently receive state honors and send representatives to the National Forensic League tournament. Recognized statewide as an expert in speaking and listening skills, Link has been an advocate for teaching communication skills and has worked to develop the language arts learning standards for the Illinois State Board of Education. Through her teaching, coaching, and service, Link demonstrates a commitment to the speech communication profession. As one student states, "Ms. Link is a teacher who realizes the importance of not only teaching from the textbook, but also the value of teaching lessons in goodness, humanity, and service."

#### Community College Outstanding Educator Award

This NCA award is given to the Community College Section member, with a minimum of five years experience teaching at a community college, who most exemplifies excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to the communication profession. The 2004 recipient was:

**Kay A. Harrison**  
*Ohlone College*

Kay Harrison of Ohlone College, a veteran California educator whose three decades of excellence in teaching and community service have touched thousands of lives, has been named the 2004 Outstanding Community College Educator. Professor Harrison's contributions both inside and outside the classroom are a testament to the commitment community college educators make every day to both their students and the communities they serve. From the comments of former students, colleagues and administrators, it's clear that Kay Harrison has a passion for learning and teaching, and for helping students from all backgrounds grow into articulate members of their community.

#### Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education

This memorial award honors an NCA member who exemplifies superlative teaching in higher education, as evidenced by written recommendations of students, colleagues, and campus administrators. The 2004 recipient was:

**Mark L. Knapp**  
*University of Texas, Austin*

University of Texas-Austin professor Mark Knapp says, "Teaching has to be seen as a bright spot in an otherwise drab day." Because of his devotion to pedagogy, Knapp was nominated by his peers and selected to receive the 2004 Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education. Those who nominated professor Knapp described him as the consummate teacher who is a role model for his students. Anita Vangelisti at University of Texas-Austin wrote, "Dr. Mark Knapp is a devoted instructor and excellent scholar." Another of his UT colleagues concurred. UT professor Dr. Roderick Hart wrote, "Mark Knapp is a teacher to the depths of his genetic structure... Mark Knapp is a stupendous teacher in every conceivable way." His

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### Outstanding teachers

Congratulations to the 2004 Outstanding Teaching Award recipients: From left, **Mark L. Knapp**, University of Texas, Austin; **Robert L. Scott**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; **Kay A. Harrison**, Ohlone College, and **Connie J. Link**, Heyworth High School.