Michael J. Lawler, Ph.D. has been a leader in the fields of social welfare and continuing education for over 25 years, including 18 years at UC Davis. The James H. Meyer Award recognizes a distinguished career of achievement by an Academic Federation member. Dr. Lawler, the 2010 recipient, is particularly deserving of the Award.

As a Department Chair at UC Davis Extension, Dr. Lawler has served as Director of the Center for Human Services and as a Continuing Educator. In these capacities he has provided research, education, and scholarly engagement services to an array of communities, agencies, and individuals statewide, nationally, and internationally. These include all 58 California counties, the California Legislature, State agencies (e.g., Social Services, Health Care Services), states (e.g., Indiana, South Carolina and Colorado), many private foundations and numerous countries (e.g., Bermuda, Nicaragua, and Russia). Dr. Lawler developed the Center for Human Services at UC Davis Extension into a program known internationally for its responsive service and academic excellence. The Center has grown nearly 500% since 1994, yielding more than $10M in annual revenue from nearly 200 contracts and grants. As the largest academic department within UC Davis Extension, the Center's academic programs directed by Dr. Lawler represent a substantial share of the outreach and scholarly engagement efforts of UC Davis Extension.
Dr. Lawler and his colleagues created several distinctive programs and Centers to address unique social or policy issues facing those working in the human services field. These thriving Centers, residing in or in partnership with the Center for Human Services, include the Center for Excellence in Child Development, Northern California Training Academy, Resource Center for Family Focused Practice, California Medical Training Center (with Pediatrics), Center for Public Policy Research (with Psychology), County Partnership Team, and Tribal TANF Center. A brief description of some of these programs follows to elucidate the wide range of Dr. Lawler's contributions to the University, state, and beyond.

Along with UCD Health System and Pediatrics, he helped create the California Medical Training Center (CMTC) in 1997 to address the state's uneven health care response to family violence. Drawing on expertise at the UCDHS and School of Medicine, CMTC provides education to health care professionals on victims' needs and on gathering critical forensics details essential for law enforcement. CMTC created new protocols and curricula for professional responses in the family violence domains of domestic violence, adult sexual assault, elder abuse and child sexual assault. Concurrent with CMTC's work, Dr. Lawler led a state effort to create new Family Violence Response Teams with

the goal of bringing together diverse response groups (medical, law enforcement, social work, and advocacy) to better serve victims of interpersonal violence.

The Resource Center for Family Focused Practice serves as a laboratory for promising new practices for child and family services. Since it began in 2000, the Center has played a major role in the development and support of new and emerging practice areas for children's services in California. These include Family Group Decision Making, Family to Family, Wraparound, and integrated services. Further, it has led the state in developing new skills and practices for juvenile probation officers and for "parent partners," consumers of social services who work in agencies to help deliver services to other families. Dr. Lawler also Co-Directs the Center for Public Policy Research. The Center's mission is to bring science to public policy for children and families. The Center draws on the research strength of Psychology and other academic departments, and the public outreach expertise of the Center for Human Services, to provide research and analysis to state leaders, legislators, and county agencies. Collaborating with colleagues from Human and Com-munity Development, Dr. Lawler helped found the International Child Protection and Rights Consortium of research colleagues from Oxford University, University of Victoria, and UNICEF. His international work includes faculty chair of the Agreement of Cooperation between UC Davis and Samara State University in Russia, the first UC Davis Agreement of Cooperation with a Russian University. Using his Russian language skills, Dr. Lawler lectured at Samara State University in 2002 and worked with local researchers and officials on proposals for international exchanges on child welfare and child rights.

In addition to his extensive scholarly engagement with individuals and communities, Dr. Lawler is an accomplished researcher and author, contributing to the social welfare and developmental psychology literature. Along with numerous reports to state government, Dr. Lawler has authored and co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters related to child welfare services and foster care. He has served as a peer reviewer for journal articles, book chapters, and book proposals for major social science publishers, national associations, and international associations. As a member of the Community Development Graduate Group, Dr. Lawler serves on these committees, ad-hoc curriculum committees, and governance committees. Dr. Lawler's campus service includes leadership roles as chair of numerous standing and ad-hoc committees for the Academic Federation, Academic Senate, Office of the Chancellor and Provost, and Office of Outreach and International Programs. For 6 years, he served on the Executive Council of the Academic

Federation, 2 of which as Vice Chair. The Academic Federation is composed of approximately 1,100 academic employees.

Dr. Lawler is an ideal recipient of the James H. Meyer Award. He is an intellectual powerhouse, an incredibly successful principal investigator and Department Chair, and a tremendous University resource and citizen. He is also known to be especially kind and generous, with a heart of gold.

Congratulations to Michael J. Lawler!