



HOPE COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

January 11, 2010

Herb Dershem
Director of Institutional Research

Dear Herb:

On behalf of the Deans' Council I am so pleased to be able to present you with the 2010 Provost's Award for Service to the Academic Program. This award is designed for individuals who serve the academic program in special ways and enable others to accomplish their work with excellence.

Herb, you took over the responsibility for institutional research at a crucial time in the life of Hope College. Given that no one had ever officially served in this capacity and institutional data was scattered diffusely throughout the college, you assumed a significant challenge – one you certainly met. Multiple campus offices now benefit from the order you have brought to institutional data and we are now making decisions based on reliable data instead of anecdotal information. We all recognize the positive spirit you bring to this important task, a characteristic that you have modeled throughout your distinguished career at Hope. Because of your excellent work, many of us have more time to do other tasks and we have reliable information with which to do our work - so critical in today's rapidly changing world of higher education. In short, you are the data czar for Hope College!

I would be remiss in not also mentioning the significant work you've done to write external grants that have brought resources to Hope to support student scholarships in STEM fields. You have also established relationships with community colleges to identify gifted students who normally could not afford to attend a college like Hope. These efforts have promoted diversity at Hope and made our campus a better place to teach and learn.

So for the above reasons and for the more than 40 years you've served Hope College in a multitude of ways, we are pleased to honor you with the 2010 Provost's Award for Service to the Academic Program. In addition to the certificate presented to you today, you will receive a \$500 stipend in your January 15 paycheck.

With thanks and appreciation,

James N. Boelkins
Provost

pc: Mike Jipping
Moses Lee