CSUEB Professor is CMEA Section’s Top Music Educator

Timothy M. Smith, California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) professor of music, is the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Bay Section’s “Outstanding Music Educator of 2006.” The award was will be presented at the CMEA state conference in Sacramento on March 10.

Smith is the first CSUEB professor to receive the Bay section’s top award. The Department of Music is in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS).

“I am deeply honored to have been given this very special recognition of my service to my profession,” Smith said. “It has been enormously rewarding to be able to work with so many devoted colleagues and students in the music education community in the greater Bay Area for the past 21 years.”

Smith, a resident of San Ramon, specializes in music education, conducting, instrument pedagogy and wind band literature. He has served on the CMEA Bay Section and state boards, as well as the California Band Directors Association State Board. During his 21-year tenure at CSUEB, he has appeared as guest conductor for nearly every local, district, section, regional and state level honor band and orchestra in California.

Smith has presented dozens of concerts and clinics at professional music educator’s conferences throughout the state, as well as hundreds of clinics with individual school bands and orchestras. With his own CSUEB instrumental music festivals, and through hosting several other CMEA co-sponsored events on campus each year, he as helped to establish CSUEB as a center for the support of music education in the greater bay area.

His colleagues were pleased to hear of the award for Smith.

“I’m not surprised to see this honor bestowed on one of our music colleagues,” said Thomas Hird, chair of the Music Department. “Devotion to students and teaching is a hallmark of the music faculty and the CSUEB faculty in general. Now we know that Tim stands among the legendary music educators of California.

“I must say that students just come up to me and volunteer their praise for Tim. They often want to tell me that they decided to come here after playing for him in one of his numerous guest workshops throughout the state. It's no secret among students and alumni that he would be a great candidate for this honor,” said Hird.

"The Music Department of CSUEB is very proud of Tim Smith's recognition," said Frank LaRocca, associate chair of the Music Department. “Tim is, simply, one of the finest music educators anywhere, and it is no surprise to us that he would be so honored. His 21 years of inspired and dedicated service to the Music Department will be a lasting legacy,” said LaRocca.