

**From:** Gary Keller [mailto:gkeller@eou.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** Stephen Clements <sclement@eou.edu>; Wilson Zehr <wzehr@eou.edu>  
**Cc:** Danny Mielke <dmielke@eou.edu>  
**Subject:** Why We Teach!: G. Keller

Good Morning Steve, Wilson and Dan,

This morning I attended Wilson's BA 498 class presentations regarding proposing ideas for a variety of community based projects. While I listened to the presentations I noticed that I taught about 90%+ of the students in the class. The next thing that impressed me was the high end quality of the intellectual component of their work.

Finally, I recognized how these young men and women grew from when I first worked with them in BA 321 and several other courses. I felt like my "children" had grown into mature men and women. And then - the blessing of guidance - that's why we teach. I struggle trying to determine if I have had a meaningful impact on those that I am charged to educate. Today, was a confirmation of what all of us do as faculty members. Each faculty member made a contribution to the whole that unfolded in front of me. I had to leave early for an appointment; but as I walked to my car, tears of joy overwhelmed at the rare vision given to me. As mentioned above, I feel as if I have the disability of blindness - not able to see what, if any, impact I am having. I wish all faculty members could attend capstone presentations of all sorts to see the how the cumulative efforts faculty come together.

Finally, congratulations to Wilson for his complete renovation of BA 498. He has put much time in finding opportunities for real world project for our students to work on and has succeeded far beyond reasonable expectations.

All the best,

Gary  
F. Keller, Ph.D., Professor  
Eastern Oregon University, Zabel Hall 209  
One University Boulevard  
La Grande, OR 97850-2807  
[541-962-3043](tel:541-962-3043)