Mike Guebert on winning the 2011 Hiltunen Faculty Award

Dr. Michael Guebert, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Taylor University and the 2011 Brian Douglas Hiltunen Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Scholarship of Engagement winner

“I felt honored to be selected for the 2011 Hiltunen Faculty Award. I thank the selection committee for choosing me and also my service-engagement colleagues at Taylor University for supporting me. This recognition may have come to me from Indiana Campus Compact, but it is possible only because of Indiana Campus Compact’s encouragement, development, and support for me and for Taylor over the last decade. Any success that Taylor and I have enjoyed in community-engaged scholarship is a direct reflection on the continued and excellent support from Indiana Campus Compact through funding and professional development opportunities. I attended many Indiana Campus Compact events and trainings during the last ten years and I consistently come away from them refreshed and invigorated to continue the pursuit of engaged scholarship at the personal and the institutional levels.”

Community impact from Mike’s work can be felt as close to home as Upland, Indiana and as far away as South America. His students have worked with local middle school students on stream assessments and Guatemalan community members to implement appropriate technologies of water wells, filters, and latrines and provide hygiene education. In addition, Mike makes himself available to mentor colleagues who are incorporating service learning into their courses and has hosted several faculty development events which have been open to faculty from across the state.

Describing the impact that service learning has on his students, he says, “The holistic combination of learning, serving, and reflecting strengthens students’ critical-thinking ability for competent science, deepens their conscience for effective stewardship, and enhances their technical skills for useful service.”