When Jan Selman interviewed for her position as Chair of the Department of Drama at the University of Alberta she was asked what her vision of leadership was. She replied that her vision was to engage deeply with the incredibly talented faculty, staff and students in the department. One of the people on the panel challenged her, arguing that engaging faculty, staff and students was not a vision. Selman, however, stayed loyal to her belief that vision cannot be imposed on people, it must be owned by everyone and that engagement was an essential element. Now, eight years later, it’s fitting that Selman is the inaugural recipient of the University of Alberta’s Excellence in Leadership Award and Chair of one of the strongest Drama departments in the country.

The Excellence in Leadership Award, administered by Human Resources, is for leaders who create an environment where faculty, staff and students cannot only excel but flourish. The award recognizes outstanding leaders or leadership teams for their awareness of and attention to issues and concerns that impact the quality of the work and learning environment.

Selman engages faculty, staff and students by being open, inclusive and consultative. She consults widely on all major decisions, which allows department members to feel pride of ownership in decisions that are made. She is also widely respected for demonstrating innovation and creativity in her leadership and fostering a supportive and collegial team environment. According to Selman, “leading an academic unit in a university is about creating the best environment for fabulous people to do fabulous things. I get great pleasure in the building a community | building a reputation

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The Cherry Award program is designed to honor great teachers, to stimulate discussion and to encourage departments and institutions to value their own great teachers.

The inaugural Festival of Teaching on November 3, 2008 looks forward to welcoming you to the second annual Festival of Teaching in early 2009. It’s about engaging diverse partners to achieve a shared goal.

For more information . . .
For more information, visit our website, www.ualberta.ca/academicawards, use the search tool or navigate to the award you are interested in.

News
With the support of the campus community, we have added numerous new awards that University of Alberta faculty members have received to our website, www.ualberta.ca/academicawards. If you have received an award and your outstanding accomplishment is not celebrated on our website, please contact us so that we may recognize your achievement.

Need help with an academic award nomination? For more information or assistance with an academic award nomination, please contact Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, at 492.2644 or via e-mail at bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca.