

Eric Wiertelak, winner of the 2007 Career Achievement Award

For his outstanding contributions to neuroscience education. He has had huge impact shaping neuroscience curricula at a national level, while doing much to help promote the neurosciences in undergraduate education, and to promote public awareness of neuroscience. He is an effective mentor to numerous junior faculty and has helped to organize a regional neuroscience consortium for faculty and students in the Midwest. He has provided exemplary and long-standing service to organizations supporting undergraduate neuroscience education, such as Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, and Project Kaleidoscope.



Dr. Wiertelak is a Professor of Psychology and Director of Cognitive and Neuroscience Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. His research investigates the role of environmental influences on endogenous pain modulation systems, and has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. His work is currently supported by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Dr. Wiertelak has served as Treasurer (1998-2000) and as President of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (2001-2004), and is currently the Chair our Committee on Education, and a very active member of our Web Committee. He is a member of Project Kaleidoscope's Faculty for the 21st Century, a recipient of the Brenda A. Milner Research Authorship Award, given by APA Division 6, and he was named the Outstanding Undergraduate Psychology Professor of 2003 by the Minnesota Psychological Association. His history of active service to the Neuroscience community and its educational missions also includes being the organizer for the Minnesota Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair, an annual event that brings grammar school children to the college campus for a day devoted to learning about Neuroscience. Macalester is also a Brain Awareness Week Partner with the Dana Alliance, and he directs those efforts as well. Dr. Wiertelak is also an Editor of APA's Division 6 newsletter, *The Behavioral Neuroscientist and Comparative Psychologist*, and an Editorial Board member of the *Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education*. In 2005, he organized and hosted a workshop on undergraduate neuroscience curricula and teaching, which brought over one hundred faculty from 45 institutions to Macalester College. He is presently organizing a second national workshop to be held at Macalester this July, for undergraduate neuroscience faculty, and is organizing a regional meeting for undergraduate neuroscience research in the Midwest, modeled after the "NEURON" and "SYNAPSE" conferences in the northeast and southeast United States, with the acronym "MIDBRAIN". In addition to his research articles, he has published numerous papers, editorials, and white papers on neuroscience education.