Faculty Perspectives on Effective Teaching
Damon Smith & Nickie Miskell

Introduction
Throughout our schooling there are teachers who have had an ability to enhance our lives for the better. This study looks to faculty for their opinions on what constitutes a good teacher. In previously conducted research (i.e., Weimer, 2013) it was found that cultivating thinking skills, ability to stimulate student interest, and the ability to motivate students to learn were the top three most popular choices in describing teaching effectiveness from teachers and people in administrative positions. The three most popular terms used by students to describe an effective teacher were interesting, approachable, and clarity. This research will look to faculty to provide characteristics of great teachers.

Method
In present study, a survey was used to find the perceptions of faculty members regarding the qualities of an effective teacher. Faculty from two mid-western universities were invited to participate via email. They were asked to think of the best teacher they had ever had and to then provide three words to describe them. They were also asked to report their total number of years of experience as a full time faculty member. A total of 163 faculty responded.

Results
Caring was reported most by faculty (48 out of 159). Knowledgeable was also highly reported (45 out of 159). Figures 1, 2, and 3 display the top 5 responses by years of experience. It can be seen that with senior faculty more reported the characteristic of knowledgeable than caring. The other two groups both reported caring more highly. Moreover, the theme of passion and enthusiasm is a highly valued characteristic of great teachers.

Discussion
After the survey results were compiled, the number one characteristic reported by faculty was caring, with knowledgeable a close second. Many other characteristics were also mentioned. Additionally, the research indicates that as faculty progress in their careers other characteristics seem to become important (i.e., knowledgeable ranking higher than caring). Further research could examine student perspectives regarding these characteristics determined by faculty members.