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JOSEPH SWOPE

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A former student of TOPSS Excellence Award winner Joseph Swope, PhD, says “His teaching style was unlike anything I had ever imagined, breaking the infinite measure of the mind into teachable

lessons that included popular shows or film clips to drive the point home to students who would much prefer video games to school.” Swope’s fervor in the classroom is evident in the impact he has made on former students, colleagues and administrators in his building.

Swope’s accomplishments in the field of education are impressive. Swope is a national board-certified teacher, a published author, an adjunct professor at two community colleges, a researcher in the field of self-hypnosis and a software designer and web guru, and he recently earned his PhD in general psychology. In addition to these impressive

accomplishments, Swope shares his expertise and gives back to the psychology community by serving as an AP psychology exam reader, regularly presenting at local high school psychology conferences and advising the Silicon Valley as an educational consultant. You can see Swope’s work at his website swopepsych.com or by checking out a copy of his book “Need for Magic,” a novel in which social psychology and mental manipulation become magic.

An example of Swope’s passion for teaching through engaging activities and making psychology relevant to students can be seen in his operant conditioning activity in which he uses operant conditioning principles, reinforcing students with M&Ms as they make trashcan baskets. The discussion that follows the activity allows students to see the connection between reinforcements and behaviors.

One of Swope’s colleagues, Emily DeSantolo of Northwest High School, says, “I am not at all exaggerating when I say Joe Swope is one of the best teachers in America.”

Congratulations to Joseph Swope on being an APA TOPSS Excellence Award winner for 2014!

PT@CC TEACHING RESOURCES AWARD WINNERS

The APA Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC) is pleased to announce the winners of the PT@CC Teaching Resources Awards.

Developed as a means to recognize and encourage sharing of high-quality instructional techniques, the contest guidelines invited community college instructors to submit an original demonstration, an individual or group class activity, an interactive teaching/learning module or other pedagogy designed to illustrate a psychological concept or theory.

PT@CC extends thanks and appreciation to the APA Education Directorate for support of the Teaching Resources Awards. In addition, special thanks go to all of the psychology faculty members who participated in the competition. Join us in congratulating this year’s winners!

First Place	“Classroom Demonstration of Neural Transmission” Sue Frantz, Highline Community College (WA)
Tied for Second Place	“Get Your Class Back! Free Your Class From Cell Phones in 5 Minutes” Louise Katz, Columbia State Community College (TN)
Tied for Second Place	“Normal or Abnormal?” Richard Alexander, Muskegon Community College (MI)

These teaching resources are posted on the APA website at <http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/undergrad/ptacc/teaching-awards.aspx>.

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