

## ***Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence***

**Responses to "The Teacher as a Transforming Leader,"  
by Gordon Mercer, 12/1/94**

Thanks for such a thought provoking piece! Teachers at the college level should never perpetuate the status quo. While it may be desirable to help our students learn how things got the way they are, higher education should always threaten tradition, not foster it. I share the vision of student autonomy and allowing students to think for themselves. In the context of the classroom, we should think of ourselves as servants, not leaders. We should be serving or helping the next generation of leaders to transform themselves, even if we personally don't like what they become. Students are our masters, clients, or employers. We do not work for their parents. We do not work for the General Assembly or the University System. All of us--teachers, parents, legislators, administrators--work for our students. They are the buyers; we are the sellers. Everything at WCU should exist to serve their collective needs. Students hire us to help them prepare for leadership. When we take their money, we are obligated to them. Teaching classes is a small part of the obligation. We also owe them time for individual consultation and representation with those within the university system who sometimes lose sight of why Western operates. We must also fight to obtain whatever is necessary to help prepare our clients. We must also defend them against any attempts to stifle their learning. If push comes to shove, the students' interests are paramount. We must accept that or find other employment. To do otherwise is to commit a fraud.

**John Moore, CTA**

I enjoyed reading your article. These ideas will be valuable to us here at NCCAT as we plan our seminars.

**Dianne Lee, NCCAT**

The article on "The Teacher as a Transforming Leader" was excellent. If you don't mind, I'd like to share it with our Leadership Kennesaw group. They would find it full of suggestion points for further discussion.

**Betty Siegel, President, Kennesaw State College, Marietta, Georgia**