Outstanding Master’s Mentor Award  
Dr. Michael Sollitto

Nominator Isabella Ruggiero said, “When the call for nominations was received in an email, I was instantly compelled to nominate Dr. Sollitto.”

Dr. Michael Sollitto is an associate professor in the Department of Communications and Media in the College of Liberal Arts. He is the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Master’s Mentor Award.

According to his nominators, Dr. Sollitto is one of the most accessible and approachable members of the Graduate Communication faculty. Dr. Sollitto’s efforts go beyond what is expected for a professor. He takes his professional responsibilities seriously, as demonstrated through his persistent support for students and impeccable work ethic. He fosters relationships with students, which helps them embrace their skills and unique selves.

Dr. Sollitto has been an active member of our campus community. He has been a featured speaker at several campus events and workshops, leading grant workshops and conflict management and negotiation sessions. Additionally, he serves as an IRB Vice Chair, Lambda Pi Eta Faculty Advisor, and internship coordinator.

Both inside and outside the classroom, Dr. Sollitto facilitates a positive climate that encourages students to grow as both learners and world citizens. He encourages students to reach their full potential by participating in research opportunities outside of their course assignments. He makes sure everyone’s voice is heard during discussions and facilitates class in a manner that ensures students can learn.

Dr. Sollitto’s assignments stress the importance of that subject to the discipline as well as the relevance to students’ everyday lives. Every single class session, Dr. Sollitto asks students to translate theory into practice to better connect the learning material to their lives.

Dr. Sollitto models ideal behavior for his students. He makes himself available to work with students, is thoroughly prepared, never misses or cancels class, and is energetic during class sessions. His dedication to student learning, his willingness to work with students, and his character demonstrates all the qualities that his nominators indicated make him worthy of his award selection.

Dr. Sollitto was nominated by students Jessica Vermaelen, Isabella Ruggiero and Andrea Guerra.