Terrance L. Freeman Ph.D., professor of mechanical engineering at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, recently was named the 33rd David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award recipient.

The award was first presented in 1976 to honor Underwood, the former Florissant Valley dean of instruction who was known for his love of education and his tireless dedication to further the educational mission on campus. A distinguished committee of past Underwood lecturers selected Freeman for the award.

"Receiving the Underwood Award is an extraordinary honor, especially since it comes from my peers," Freeman said. "To be recognized by such an intelligent, diverse and inspirational group of colleagues who have all been here for a considerable amount of time is truly an honor."

"Terrence has been an asset to Florissant Valley for 25 years," said Marcia Pfeiffer, campus president. "He is a dynamic educator and his dedication to improving the community makes him the perfect role model for student and staff alike. We are proud to honor him."

Freeman holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic University in New York, a master's in mechanical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and recently completed his Ph.D. in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Since entering the field of education, he has served in a variety of positions at STLCC, including coordinator of the minority engineering transfer program, engineering science coordinator and adviser to the president on multicultural affairs. Freeman is cosponsor of Florissant Valley’s chapter of the Society of Black Engineers. He has written several grant proposals to the National Science Foundation.

A passionate community activist, Freeman works with Inroads, a national organization that prepares minority youth for the business world, and was selected as the 1998 Facilitator of the Year. He mentors students in the St. Louis Public Schools and is active in Upward Bound, a program that assists first-generation college students. Freeman received the 100 Black Men of America's Wimberly Award for outstanding service, locally and as the national youth coordinator. It is the organization’s highest service award.

"I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to touch lives and to have taught students who are now raising families and making their own mark on the community," Freeman said. "It's a feeling that can't be matched by the dollars one could make in industry."