Sharon Fox, professor and reference librarian at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, has been named the 39th recipient of the David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award.

David L. Underwood was known for his love of education. He was deeply concerned with the welfare of students and staff alike. His dedication went beyond office hours and he tirelessly gave of his time and talents to further the educational mission at Florissant Valley.

Recipients of the Underwood Award demonstrate that same dedication and commitment. Chosen by a committee of peers, recipients exhibit excellence in instruction and a genuine, humanistic concern for students, faculty, staff and all of education.

“I am humbled, honored and very grateful to receive the David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award, especially since it comes from my peers,” said Fox. “I have known, admired and learned from each of the previous 38 recipients. Many colleagues have expressed genuine happiness for me, and it makes the honor all the sweeter.”

Fox came to St. Louis Community College in 1977 as a part-time library assistant. She became a full-time library associate in 1978 and has worked in every employee group, becoming a faculty member in 1993. Fox says she loves working with students, faculty and staff as a reference librarian at the David L. Underwood Library at Florissant Valley.
In 2004, she developed a popular interdisciplinary leadership course, which she still teaches. Fox considers herself a lifelong learner. She has completed the majority of her education as a part-time student. She is a graduate of St. Louis Community College, holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Saint Louis University, a master’s in library and information science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and is one class short of a second master's in American culture studies from Washington University. She has an interest in traditional Chinese medicine and has 139 related continuing education credits. She also is certified as a Jin Shin self-care teacher.

Fox served as adviser to Florissant Valley’s Pi Kappa chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society from 2000-10. In 2003, she became certified to teach the Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development Studies curriculum. She was twice selected as a Faculty Scholar for the annual Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar Conference and Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Institute in 2005 and 2006.

She has received awards for adviser excellence at the state and national level, including the society’s 2008 Mosal Award, which recognizes scholarship among Phi Theta Kappa advisers. During her tenure as chapter adviser, Fox helped STLCC students secure $3 million in transfer scholarships.

In 36 years, Fox has actively served on more than 60 college and campus committees. She is especially proud of is her work as chair that resulted in the purchase of networked computers for each faculty office at Florissant Valley in 1990 and the creation of the college’s first website in 1994.

Fox is an advocate for the importance of global and interdisciplinary education. She is well traveled and brings those experiences back to the classroom and college. In 2013, she was one of 16 faculty selected nationwide to participate in the Global Connections Study Tour to Turkey, sponsored by Ohio State University's Middle East Study Center and the Niagara Foundation.

Deeply committed to the community college mission, Fox considers it a great privilege to work at STLCC-Florissant Valley.