



Ars legendi-Preis

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**2012 Ars Legendi Prize presented at the HRK Annual Assembly:
Tribute paid to social scientists from Esslingen University of Applied Sciences and
Mainz University**

At today's Annual Assembly of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) in Hamburg, Prof. Nina Kölsch-Bunzen of Esslingen University of Applied Sciences and Dr Malte Persike of Mainz University were awarded the 2012 Ars Legendi Prize for teaching excellence.

The prize, now in its seventh year, is jointly awarded by the Stifterverband (*Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft*) and the HRK for outstanding achievements in university teaching. The prize is endowed with €50,000 from the Stifterverband and is awarded annually in one selected discipline. This year, applications were invited from the social sciences.

Nina Kölsch-Bunzen impressed the jury because she factors in participatory and democratic forms of teaching and learning when planning her work. The jury emphasised that Ms Kölsch-Bunzen sets an example by successfully managing to organise the academic study of social work in such a way that it goes beyond the simple communication of skills and abilities. She works jointly with her students to include opportunities for developing personal and professional competencies as a foundation for active social and political accountability.

In the case of Malte Persike, the jury underlined his outstanding ability to generate enthusiasm for psychological methodology and statistics for students at the start of their studies. In addition to his great didactic commitment and talent, Persike uses the full range of new media to communicate with his students. This strategy should be seen as setting a trend for the further development of university teaching. His personal, motivational dedication and the use of multimedia tools enabled him to provide his students with intensive individual support.

The different approaches of the two prize winners represent the wide range of challenges facing university teachers today. It was for this reason that the jury decided to split the prize this year.

At the award ceremony, HRK President Prof. Margret Wintermantel emphasised that Kölsch-Bunzen and Persike were role models for commitment and creativity in teaching. She said it was good that the Ars Legendi Prize provided a way of honouring such inspiring university teachers. Dr Arend Oetker, president of the Stifterverband, stated, “Top achievements in teaching are as important to us as research excellence. This is what the Ars Legendi Prize is intended to show.”

The jury – made up of students and experts from the social sciences, university teaching staff, and business representatives, and chaired by HRK Vice-President Prof. Ursula Gather – selected the winners from a total of 27 proposals. Applications are usually proposed by faculties, departments, or student associations, although individual personal applications are also accepted.

Printable photos of the prize winners are available at www.hrk.de/lehrpreis or www.stifterverband.de.

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