About Professor Ken Pitetti
College of Health Professions

Pitetti has been a teacher for more than 35 years, with the past 20 or so spent at WSU in the College of Health Professions. Before earning his doctorate, he taught biology, math, physiology and government, as well as serving as coach and assistant coach for a variety of sports at the high school level for 11 years. He then taught at the community college level, as a lecturer at a medical school, and as an exercise specialist at a rehabilitation center.

Before teaching, he served in Vietnam; his medals include the Bronze Star with "V" Device for valor in combat and the Purple Heart, for a combat injury that resulted in the amputation of his lower right leg.

With all his experiences, perhaps that’s why students mention Pitetti’s great stories when commenting on him as a teacher.

"He has a vibrant personality, great stories, a great sense of humor, and a working knowledge of his field," says one student. "His stories and illustrations bring the physiology of the human body to life. I respect him very much."

For several years Pitetti has been researching and writing articles published in national and international journals on such topics as endurance training for people with disabilities and exercise management for people with chronic diseases and disabilities. Pitetti has developed exercise curricula for hundreds of developmentally disabled children in area schools.

His students describe him as "very knowledgeable," "up-to-date on the latest developments in his field," "funny," "caring" and "enthusiastic."

Pitetti has won several teaching awards, including the Rodenberg Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989, an Excellence in Teaching Award from WSU in 1991, and Academy for Effective Teaching Award in 2002. In 2000, KWCH Channel 12 named him Teacher of the Year in Wichita in its annual people’s choice contest called "Wichita’s Best."

In 1998, he received the Jimmie Heuga Excellence Award, presented by the American College of Sports Medicine, in recognition of service, leadership and dedication toward improving the lives of persons with disabilities.