This year’s list of the top 25 university professors in the country, as ranked by RateMyProfessors.com, includes at number 20 Laura Pence, professor of chemistry in the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences. The popular website, which is owned and operated by MTV’s college network, mtvU, releases an annual list that ranks the nation’s top professors and universities based entirely on students’ input.

Pence is the only professor in New England on the list. With student comments like these about her on the website, it becomes clear why:

“Shes always willing to help you in any way possible and manages to make pretty hard source material extremely easy to comprehend. She also managed to keep classes entertaining with her sense of humor. I would highly recommend taking her class if you get the chance as you definitely would not regret it.”

“Best teacher I have ever had in any class in any subject in my entire life. Professor Pence is so nice and willing to help, and has the most effective teaching style. Take this professor if you can, you will learn so much.”

“IN PENCE WE TRUST. This woman is a godsend. Such clarity and makes what you’re learning actually interesting. If you have the option to take this professor in any class, DO IT.”

“She has a keen interest in her students. Not only in their success in class but also in life. Highly recommend for all!”

Pence, who won the University’s Roy E. Larsen Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2006, teaches courses ranging from introductory chemistry to advanced environmental chemistry and chemical synthesis. She says, “The reason I love teaching is the bond that forms with my students when my excitement about their learning and about chemistry is transferred to them. It’s a thrill to read the students’ comments because I can see how they value that bond and that energy as well.

“I’m really just one of many dedicated faculty members at the University, but being singled out by my students on Rate My Professors is quite an honor,” she said.

Pence spent the 2012–13 academic year on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Science Policy Fellow in the office of U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado. Her portfolio included energy, environment, natural resources, and cybersecurity. Pence’s research publications have featured traditional laboratory research as well as projects incorporating technology—wikis, RSS, and a Google Jockey—into her chemistry courses.

She also chairs the American Chemical Society National Committee on Environmental Improvement, which writes the organization’s policy statements on a wide range of issues, from fracking to sustainability.

The full list by RateMyProfessors.com can be viewed at Toplists.ratemyprofessors.com. RateMyProfessors.com is built for college students by college students and is the highest-traffic college professor rating site.