

2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



It has been said, "If you change the life of a child, you've changed the world." It is indeed an honor and a privilege to provide young children with a foundation that opens doors for a lifetime of learning.

—Vicki Collier, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Julie Galvin, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Education is the cornerstone of living a successful and valuable life. The more education a person receives, the more valuable he is to his household, family, community, state, country, and most important of all, himself. I explain to my students the importance of gaining the desirable skills in the welding profession so that they are open to unlimited opportunities in this industry.

—Carl Harris, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Walter Goode, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Tara Keeter, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



John C. Maxwell said, "When you make choices that do not build relationships you suffer." As an administrator, I choose to model the attitude and behavior that says to every student who walks through our doors, "Thank you for choosing Halifax Community College. You are now a part of our campus family and we are going to help you succeed."

—Barbara Hasty, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I am inspired by the students that I teach. They show drive and a passion for success. I am motivated by both a love for the art of teaching and by a profound respect and excitement for the subjects that I teach.

—Sarah Nesbit, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Mathematics enables a learner to make sense of the physical world and promotes critical thinking and problem solving. Using collaborative exercises and relevant applications that spark my students' interest is the foundation to ensure that my students think about, process, enjoy, and learn mathematics. Regardless of their belief about mathematics, it is imperative to celebrate successes along the educational journey. The greatest leaders are those who empower others to be their best.

—Calvin Stansbury, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Literacy education students strive for academic achievement and success, opening numerous doors of opportunity. Students' sacrifices, strength, and perseverance constantly inspire, motivate, and encourage me in the workplace and beyond. Students' life-changing decisions are rewarding as they move forward to reach their maximum potential. Their best is yet to come!

—Tamba Thompson, Halifax Community College (NC)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



For me "Think, pair, and share" is at the heart of education. I am the facilitator, bridging the opportunity to learn into inspired thinkers of tomorrow; I am the motivator, transforming individual knowledge into civic responsibilities. I impart confidence that an educated person makes global differences -- I am a teacher.

—Jan Brewer, Harford Community College (MD)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Teaching is more passion than profession for me. I believe that my job is to take the mystery out of the mathematics, and then encourage my students to take responsibility for their learning. I do my best to work with their attitude as well as their aptitude.
—Deborah Jaeger, Harford Community College (MD)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I get more excited by the questions students ask rather than those they answer. Most students can learn the art of "parroting" answers. When students are asking good questions I know they are thinking and that is my goal - to develop "thinkers."

—Scott Schaeffer, Harford Community College (MD)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Nicole Ernst, Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

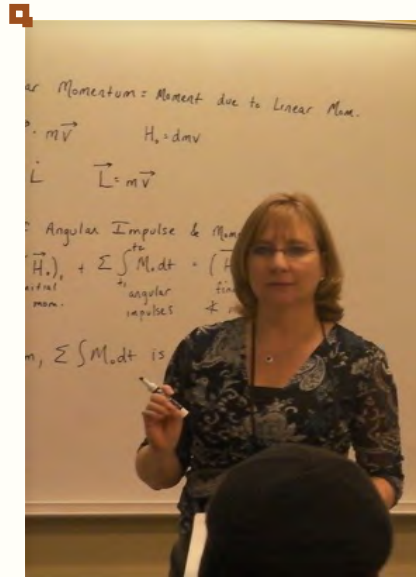


—Julia Imboden, Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Kimberly Ketelsleger, Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Cynthia Muth, Harrisburg Area Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



My ultimate goal in teaching is to help students realize their potential. I attempt to achieve this goal by creating a friendly classroom atmosphere; designing challenging and creative lesson activities; and adapting my courses to the specific students in order to promote active engagement during the learning process.

—Michael Nyagol, Hazard Community and Technical College (KY)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Thomas Carlyle's essay "Sartor Resartus" (The Tailor Re-tailored) illustrates a philosophy I've embraced for over 20 years: a philosophy of change. Carlyle contends that like the tailor, we should redesign the philosophies in which we cover ourselves. How we teach should be ever-changing, ever-growing, and always altered to encourage learning.

—William Gary, Jr., Henderson Community College (KY)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

My pedagogical style is humanistic, treating students with respect rather than authoritarianism. Community college students commonly enroll in developmental classes, such as Preparatory Writing; such students thrive in an environment of acceptance where the affective filter is lowered. Students respond well when they feel their voices count and they share ideas.

—Darrin King, Hillsborough Community College (FL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



A teacher must incorporate many different styles of instruction to accommodate the diverse learning styles and backgrounds of the class. This allows students to understand that there are various ways of acquiring, analyzing and evaluating ideas.
—Travis Meek, Hillsborough Community College (FL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I strive for excellence by challenging my students and helping them exceed their own expectations. As someone excited about learning, every interaction is a chance to pique their curiosity and put passion, emotion, values, and ethics into the learning process. This gives me great pride and joy.

—Michael Rabaut, Hillsborough Community College (FL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



John Henrik Clarke once said: "A good teacher, like a good entertainer first must hold his audience's attention, then he can teach his lesson." I attempt to share complex processes in a way that holds my students' attention.

—Ted Wilson, Hopkinsville Community College (KY)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



According to Google Analytics, people googled douglas.bump over 26,000 times in 2012. I made 2,400 math videos covering developmental math and college algebra. There are over 200 videos covering dosage calculations for nursing students. The videos are free, require no email, and do not contain any advertising.

<http://sophia.hccs.edu/~douglas.bump/>

—Douglas Bump, Houston Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

As an Electronics instructor or as a division chair for Science Engineering Technology field that I work in, I always put myself in place of my student and think about what he or she needs to be successfull in life. This has inspired me to do things better everyday.

—Morteza Sameei, Houston Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Sharing one's own ideas and responding to others' reactions helps to sharpen a student's thinking and deepens their understanding. I teach from my heart and let the students experience the float of my words, and they learn from experiencing and perceiving my actions. I say what I mean and mean what I say. Teaching should be fun and I make it fun for the students; it's not just lecturing -- it is building encouragement, involvement and participation. Being a student is a job.

—Sheila Williams, Houston Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Teachers are responsible for more than just lesson plans and classroom facilitation -- teachers are responsible for the futures of their students, and teachers must prioritize and value student success above all else. This is why teaching is such a difficult and invaluable profession.

—Jonathan Armstrong, Itawamba Community College (MS)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Engaging in the educational process exposes both student and teacher to a deep and personal vulnerability; therefore, I see myself as a fellow traveler, a companion of sorts with my students. This partnership is deeply interpersonal and allows me to learn from my students as much as I hope they learn from me. My hope, that I share with my students consistently throughout the semester, is that their experience in my classroom serves them not only in preparation for the requirements of course, but most importantly, for the challenges that exist beyond the classroom.

—Vickie Cochran, Itawamba Community College (MS)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Academic Support Services strives to remove the barriers that prevent students from moving forward. We build on-going relationships with our students and provide assistance throughout their academic career. Our goal is to help students to feel empowered to become self-advocates and discover the confidence within that inspires them to achieve the goals they have set form themselves.

—Rhonda Angsman, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I know the only way we can grow as an institution is if our faculty and staff continue to develop as professionals, and as people.

—Christina Collins, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



The most satisfying aspect of teaching is working closely with students in the clinical area. As the semester progresses, I see the students become more confident and competent as they transform what they learn in the classroom into quality patient care at the bedside.

—Barbara Duncan, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Nothing puts a smile on my face like the transformation of students. Working collaboratively as co-creators of their educational experience, the unfolding of new learning and new application inspires me to keep showing up. When students embrace their accomplishments, transformative moments rock the campus!

—Lynn Shaw, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Pastry chefs and bakers have two most valuable assets: their minds and their hands. It is our job to teach students to be intensely curious and to practice, practice, practice. I ask open-ended questions. I want to get students thinking critically. When they bake with understanding, they are able to control outcomes.

—Paul Vida, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I am inspired by the courage I see in the face of students; I always try to remember how scary it is to take those steps to change your life. Students have the hard work to do -- my job is to be a mentor and guide.

—Amy Wann, Ivy Tech Community College—Central Indiana (IN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

My students are my inspiration, and they fill my life with joyfulness. Their courage in facing financial, family, and health challenges gives me perspective, and I am thankful for the opportunity to teach them and follow a career that brings hope and encouragement to others.

—Roxanne Munch, Joliet Junior College (IL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Britt Davis, Kilgore College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Socrates said, "Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." As educators, we are privileged to have the opportunity to invest in the next generation, inspiring them and providing support to make dreams come true despite the obstacles. It's our honor to feed the flame.

—Staci Waldrep, Lamar Institute of Technology (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Love what you do and you never have to work. I have been teaching for over a decade and have yet to work a single day.
—David Arreazola, Laredo Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Teaching has given me the opportunity to impact more lives than I could possibly touch during my lifetime as a physical therapist. It is an honor to be able to prepare a student with the knowledge and skills that will effect a change in others, and an even greater privilege to know that I have been a part of changing a student's life for the better.

—Esmeralda Vargas, Laredo Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Biology students are usually polarized. Love-it students share my passion—they need direction to push farther and harder; hate-it students need my passion to reconnect with their childlike sense of wonder. Enthusiasm isn't taught, it's caught, and my task is to bait the hook for all groups.

—Margene Lenamon, Lee College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



It is a privilege to work with colleagues to create and foster an environment that serves and inspires learners. The collective effort of faculty, staff and administration committed to rigorous standards, professionalism and innovation leads to quality learning experiences and lifelong learning. My inspiration comes from the success of our learners and those who work directly with them.

—Karen O'Dwyer, Lethbridge College (Alberta)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



In my position as chair, I am privileged each day for the opportunity to enhance the student experience and to assist in my colleagues' reaching their goals. I try to be accessible to students and staff alike by striving to create a positive learning environment; being available; listening; and offering guidance.

—Calvin Whitehead, Lethbridge College (Alberta)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I share with my students everything that I know to help them become successful in the future. Teaching is more than sharing information with students -- It encompasses such things as helping students find solutions to personal problems, providing guidance, and giving support and encouragement. In short, helping others motivates me.

—Tim Humphrey, Lincoln Land Community College (IL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—John Barr, Lone Star College–Kingwood (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



What inspires me is to see the results of my teaching in action. Many of my graduates work in the clinical settings where I have new students. The graduates enjoy serving as mentors for the new students. Consequently, both the graduate and the new student grow and learn. Teaching and learning never ends.
—Mary Bjorklund, Lone Star College–Kingwood (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

For many students, math seems to be a weakness and often a fear. My desire is to help students find success not only in math, but to build the confidence in themselves necessary for success in life! To share the excitement with students who finally accomplish their goals is the greatest reward.

—Melinda Coleman, Lone Star College–Tomball (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

I guide students to make connections between course material and their own experiences; between abstract and real-world applications; between the student and professor; between their current situation and their future goals. Education is the process of developing our personal worldwide webs. My education is ongoing; my web is ever-growing.

—Margaret Jelinek Lewis, Lone Star College–Tomball (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Make it relevant. Give students a stake in it. Put your whole self into your subject. Listen and compromise – but only so far, because in the end, students cannot love the material if they do not know it, and they cannot know it if they do not do the work.
—Catherine Olson, Lone Star College–Tomball (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

It is a remarkable irony that we cannot achieve student success by focusing on student success. We must focus on our work, our research, the quest for knowledge in every discipline, and invite our students to share the labor and the joy we take in it. Only in this way can they become successful.

—John Rollins, Lone Star College–Tomball (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Teaching developmental English is a true calling in my life. Teaching students who need a little extra help, encouragement, and support gives my life meaning. I hope I bless my students' lives as much as they bless mine.

—Donna Willingham, Lone Star College–Tomball (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Imagine learning as a tree, driven towards sunlight and digging into the soil for nourishment. The infinite potential to branch out represents the lives of students touched by service learning and others helped by them. As a tree grows and adapts, so do the hearts and minds of our students.

—Ruby Beil, Lorain County Community College (OH)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Knowledge is a powerful thing. If we can inspire our students to transform the knowledge gained from their education into action that stimulates change and creates a better world, then we have achieved success.

—Maria McConnell, Lorain County Community College (OH)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Each day presents an opportunity to do something significant: to transform a student's life. I feel honored that I have been given the opportunity to do so. Magic happens in the classroom where our students are transformed, and we must take the time to celebrate the evolution of their transformation.

—Adriene Davis, Los Angeles Community College District (CA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



It takes a community to enrich the lives of our students. We are driven to work together to provide our students with the desire, ability, and opportunity to accomplish their educational goals. We must also celebrate student success with recognition by sharing the news of their accomplishments with the world!
—Mark James, Luzerne County Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



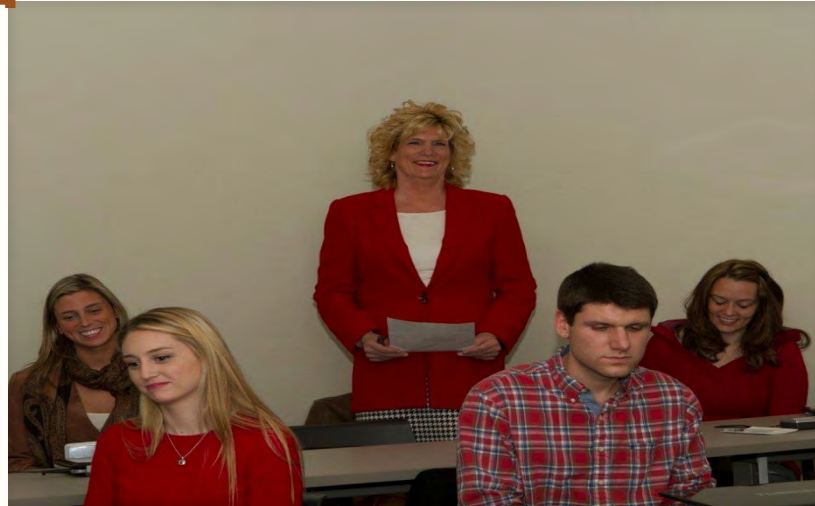
My ultimate goal is helping students develop the capacity to critically approach information. In partnership with classroom faculty, I want to give students the tools and help them develop the abilities to acquire, evaluate, and apply knowledge in a variety of contexts, so they can be successful both in college and in life.

—Teresa Biegun, Macomb Community College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



One who truly desires success does not give up. Instructors should motivate students to: set realistic goals; lay out a blueprint to pursue them; spark ambition; guide them to overcome all challenges in their path; and help them to build self-confidence and realize their dreams. Giving up is never an option.

—Sharon Kandt, Macomb Community College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I chose a career in teaching rather than research, so that I could help students move from where they are to where they want to be. I have reaped untold benefits seeing my students gain the knowledge and self-confidence they need to impact their families and communities for the good.

—Edythe Woods, Macomb Community College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



What motivates me? Graduates from our program having the tools and skills necessary to work in the legal field in challenging and well-paid positions. This requires keeping the pulse on the legal community and changing what and how you teach to meet the current needs of the students and employers.

—Norma Kropp, Madison Area Technical College (WI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I believe teaching is a continuous improvement career because methods that worked this semester may not work next semester, and that's ok. Realizing and embracing change allows me to try new ideas in helping my students become successful, confident users of technology needed for their chosen career.
—Julie Freelove, McHenry County College (IL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



As an instructor, I try to motivate and support my students; as Faculty Development Chair, I work with my colleagues at MCC to support our collective goal to be outstanding educators. The instructor and administrator in me are working toward the same end: excellence inside and outside of the classroom.

—Laura Power, McHenry County College (IL)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

As Advancement Professional, my duties include raising funds for and awarding student scholarships. I have, therefore, the privilege of working with students solving their resource issues, but also reinforcing the importance of post-secondary education to the community. This changes the lives of students AND the life of the community.

—Harry Harelik, McLennan Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



"Dancing With the Stars" is a great description of what I have the opportunity to do each day at M.C.C! Working together with four previous NISOD Excellence Award winners, we create a Navigational Constellation to help guide others to new and exciting places. Isn't that what teaching is all about?
—Donna Reed, McLennan Community College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Teaching is important because you get to make an impact in students' lives, and this is not just academically. When you ensure that the impact is a positive impact and not a negative impact, you are truly being a servant leader. As Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." What better way is there to serve than to teach?

—Cedric Bradley, Meridian Community College (MS)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Cindy Litz, Mid-Plains Community College (NE)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Aaron McLean, Mid-Plains Community College (NE)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

The alchemy of teaching and learning are possible when I am passionate about my material, as well as authentic and mindful. I see my role as a facilitator of experience and knowledge, encouraging students to find their strengths and true selves, with the hope of increasing their well-being and practical wisdom.

—Robert Fera, Middlesex Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

We are all learners at different levels of experience and engagement. As an educator, it is my role to work with students to help facilitate their learning by providing historical knowledge and context to engage the many issues and wonders of our world.

—David Kalivas, Middlesex Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Teaching biology is exciting because the information is relevant to the students' personal life as well as their chosen career. It is rewarding when students are able to understand new concepts and apply them to real life, as well as generate new questions.

—Carol Bischof, Minnesota State Community and Technical College (MN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Maintaining the Campus is very gratifying for me and my dedicated staff. We strive to provide the optimal environment for our students, faculty and staff to flourish. I also guest lecture or lead tours for engineering classes, allowing them to participate in interactive learning. Seeing students' appreciation and passing on my knowledge has been very satisfying.

—Christopher Karp, Montgomery College (MD)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I have been a college writing and literature teacher for almost 25 years, and my enjoyment and commitment to teaching have only deepened with the passage of time. I find that I can now engage students in the learning process in complex and highly individualized ways, and have learned the very fine craft of teaching at my students' hands. I am very fortunate to teach at a college where the majority of my students come from other nations and cultures. I continue to learn and to work with a multitude of needs and realities every day. I know that I must make no assumptions whatsoever about those who comprise the communities of learners in my classes. I have also learned to listen very, very closely.

—Rita Kranidis, Montgomery College (MD)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Learning is a continuous function: the teacher continuously learns from the students how best to teach them to learn, and the students are continuously learning how best to learn from the teacher in order to apply what they learn.

—Emenike Ukazim, Montgomery County Community College (PA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Watching a student transition from being too scared to enter a patient's room, to teaching a new mom how to bathe her newborn son, to sitting at the bedside of a patient with a terminal illness just holding their hand -- that is what inspires me to continue teaching nursing.

—Cathy Simpson, Motlow State Community College (TN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

Inspiration can come at any moment throughout the day. For me, the best ideas and the most inspiring moments occur while I am watching my students discover something for themselves. The process allows me to see where I can help improve my process, and if one student is having trouble in that area, then there are 10 more that will have the same issue. My personal inspiration is my mother and father who have worked in higher education since before I was born. The student-focused, hands-on attention they have given every student they encounter keeps me seeking to aspire to their standard.

—David Morales, Mountain View College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Darlene Gentles, National Park Community College (AR)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I attempt to educate adults via a style that is engaging, authentic, and learner-focused. My philosophy is to approach every adult learner as a self-directed individual. In so doing, I provide the texts and context that will enable such students to respond in their own authentic voice. In essence, they are able to establish personal agency.

—Pamela Tolbert-Bynum, Naugatuck Valley Community College (CT)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

My professional passion is learning mathematics with students -- I absolutely LOVE to see the 'a-ha!' expression on their faces knowing that understanding is replacing math anxiety! I am awed by the deeper insight students can gain with the aid of a graphing calculator.

—Anna Pat Alpert, Navarro College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



No other profession offers the opportunity and responsibility of influence like teaching. I inspire my students to face fear, find potential, develop voice, and define their future. Teaching is powerful; the ethical implications are sacred. I am both honored and humbled to be a teacher -- this profession shapes humanity!

—Shellie Buckley, Navarro College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



My sincere belief that I am changing the world by inspiring confidence, determination, and positive attitudes in every nursing student is the basis of my mission at Navarro. It is an incredible privilege to teach the noble traditions of the nursing profession to the next generation.

—Carrie Self, Navarro College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I cherish that I am a stepping stone in the lives of my students. I want to encourage and empower them to fulfill the purposes of their lives. As I teach my students, I remember the historical promise of the community college to provide hope to those who wish to better their lives through higher education.

—Suzann Spaniel, Navarro College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Yau-Sun Wong, New Mexico Junior College (NM)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Teaching is a God given talent, but He never said that it was going to be easy. I have based a lot of my career on this adage -- teaching is the most rewarding profession that I have ever been associated with. The rewards of passing a lifetime of knowledge unto future generations are the emphasis to deliver my best teaching efforts every day. However, I have learned that sometimes the teacher must also become the student. Every now and then, a student will show me a better way of approaching some concept; I incorporate that technique into my presentations.

—John Dynak, New River Community and Technical College (WV)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Karen Tully, New River Community and Technical College (WV)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

In my classes, we swap a lot of stories - nothing is sacred, and everything is sacred. My students challenge me to listen, and I challenge them to connect what we're learning to the story their life is writing. At term end, I thank them for being my teachers.

—Derek Hanebury, North Island College (Canada)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I do not see myself as the "expert" but rather a "facilitator." One of my greatest accomplishments has been developing more reciprocity between students and the community -- creating learning opportunities for mutual benefit. It is through identifying and drawing on student and community strengths that integrated learning has occurred, professionally and personally.

—Kerri Lowey MacKenzie, North Island College (British Columbia)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Students should know they are valued members of the educational community. Thus, I encourage them to share their experiences so everyone benefits from those real-world examples and, most importantly, so students know their lives are relevant to course concepts. Students are respected contributors to the learning process.

—Frederick Altieri, North Shore Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Each and every day my students inspire and motivate me. I truly enjoy teaching, especially in the community college environment. This is where I personally feel that I can make the most difference. To encourage students to learn, gain self-esteem, improve self-confidence, experience success, and feel personally empowered is priceless.

—Margaret Figgins-Hill, North Shore Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



A community college provides access, affordability and is an equalizer toward students' future successes. I am invigorated every day, in my role as a financial aid counselor, in showing our diverse student population that "financially" their goal of a higher education is within their reach. There is no greater reward.

—Carole Hunter, North Shore Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I engage students in the classroom by adapting to new trends in technology, using tools and techniques that best attract student interest. I'm constantly changing lectures and activities to stay creative and insert innovative teaching techniques. I'm always looking for new initiatives to develop relevant programs to meet workforce needs.

—George Walsh, North Shore Community College (MA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

I knew the theory of "sink or swim" as it relates to student success in college was a harsh approach to teaching. I certainly didn't believe it as to my learning to swim as a child -- no one let me sink unless I chose to do so. I was scared at times, got water up my nose and at times wanted to give up. But, there was an instructor encouraging me to keep going. "Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it" is what I try to instill in my students. Learning is not easy at times and there are sacrifices and disappointments along the journey, but you keep "getting in the water" until you succeed.

—Jane Rusk, Northeast Iowa Community College (IA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Efrain Guevara, Northeast Lakeview College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

My inspiration comes from my colleagues at NLC, their strong pedagogical values encourage me to be a better instructor and leader.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Albert Einstein

—Patsy Stelter, Northeast Lakeview College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Silvia Zecca, Northeast Lakeview College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



The people I work with on a daily basis serve as a constant source of inspiration and motivation. The dedication and perseverance I see from both students and coworkers set the standard bar high, constantly pushing me to do better not only in my career but also my personal life.

—Erin Blevins, Northeast State Community College (TN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I am inspired and motivated by tasks that are worthwhile and interesting, and by people who work for the common good. Success for me is the belief in what I am doing can make a difference in someone's life. Words to live by: Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

—Nancy Forrester, Northeast State Community College (TN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I have spent my whole adult life as a chemist since my first college chemistry course in 1947. After 44 years in industrial R&D, I began teaching chemistry at Northeast State. I wanted to pass on my fascination with chemistry to the students, and so I have assured them that chemistry, while it requires a lot of work, is both fascinating and fun - and that they definitely should not be afraid of the subject, as so many are. The result has been that some of our good students have entered pharmacy, medical, and dentistry, professional schools and have done very well. Overall my experience as a college professor has been extremely rewarding.

—Charles Osborne, Northeast State Community College (TN)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

I believe that teaching is a three part process: sharing knowledge, imparting information, and facilitating learning. Through learning, opportunities to grow and expand arise. As a teacher and leader, I am always reminded that leadership is not defined by who we are, but is intrinsically characterized by what we are.

—Michael Carrington, Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Alpana Das, Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



To effectively serve our students, educators must not only have a comprehensive knowledge-base of our discipline, but persistently add to this body of expertise. This prepares us to embrace our unique opportunity to empower individuals to discover their potential, and equip them with necessary tools and skills to exceed it.

—Dahlia Henry-Tett, Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards

I am inspired by the quote "Only those who see the invisible can accomplish the impossible." I help my students to see that invisible -- that task, that goal that they never thought they could achieve -- I show them the path to get there. Watching my students reach the end of that path is what inspires me!

—Nicole Mancini, Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



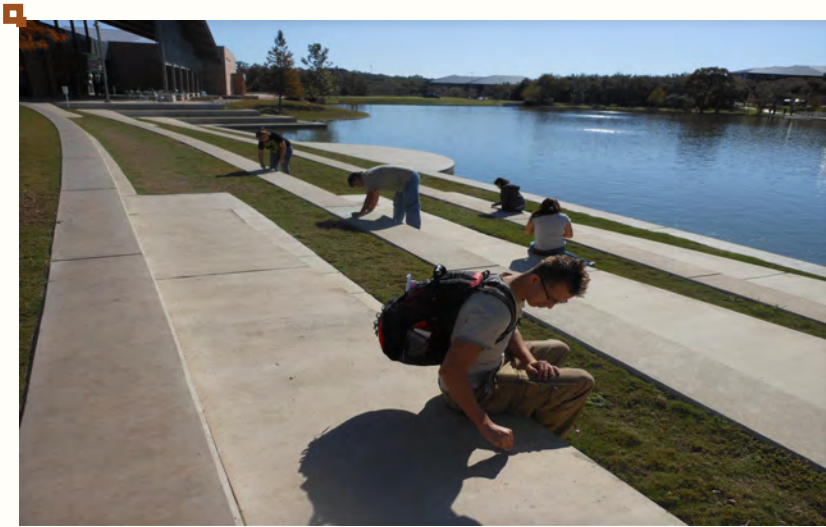
I'm lucky enough to be able to do what I truly love: to influence, to teach, and to motivate young people and others who seek to improve themselves. Every day I come to class, I also learn. What a great way to be a perennial student. I get to continually learn, too, through my students.

—Sally First, Northwest Vista College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



—Andrew Hill, Northwest Vista College (TX)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



It is my desire to ease the administrative burden on faculty and allow them the opportunity to bring creativity and innovation into their classrooms. Encouraging, empowering, and supporting their initiatives is my contribution to the success of students, faculty, and the institution.

—Susan DeCamillis, Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



In Harry Potter, Mad-Eye Moody says to his students, “Constant Vigilance!” That’s what I need. Who’s in my room now? What innovations can I try? What am I missing? The worst thing I can do is let my guard down and miss the opportunity to help students reach their goals.

—Nancy Gray, Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



Maya Angelou said, “A bird does not sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song.” As a developmental writing teacher, my job is to help students find their song, believe in their right to sing it, and then help them discover -- through writing -- how to sing it well.

—Kristen Salathiel, Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



I love my job in the Tutoring Center! I am surrounded by students who care about their work. They have set goals and are working to meet them. The peer tutors are a group of students who are committed to helping others. I am inspired by all of them, every day.

—Diane Donovan, Norwalk Community College (CT)



2013

NISOD Excellence Awards



It's clear that there's no big secret, magic formula or educational model that makes for a great teacher. I hope that I teach my students to think, to analyze rather than memorize, and to look for opportunities to continue learning. As Maya Angelou wrote, "When you know better you do better."

—Susan Steiz, Norwalk Community College (CT)

