



Guadalupe Betancourt once said, "Success is to be in peace and harmony with yourself, enjoying the moment." Each day I enjoy the moment, seeing my team accomplish the goals at hand. I enter each day with peace and harmony knowing the impact we make on community.

—Daniel Ayala, Alamo Colleges



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My mission is to create educationally relevant, on-demand training for essential workforce skills to guide learners on a path to a living wage and sustained employability. Thinking ridiculously has always been my way to keep things relevant. If you can dream it, you can achieve it.

—Shannon Reynolds, Alamo Colleges



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Listening to employer needs focuses my efforts on helping companies develop training plans to achieve their training objectives. My workflow includes planning for a spectrum of occupations and my motivation is grounded in knowing that the training we deliver provides students needed tools to attain a rewarding career pathway.

—Shannon Herrera-Mendoza, Alamo Colleges



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Watching the lightbulbs turn on above their heads as understanding blossoms and stoking their passion for learning keep me excited and energized to share my experience and knowledge with my students.

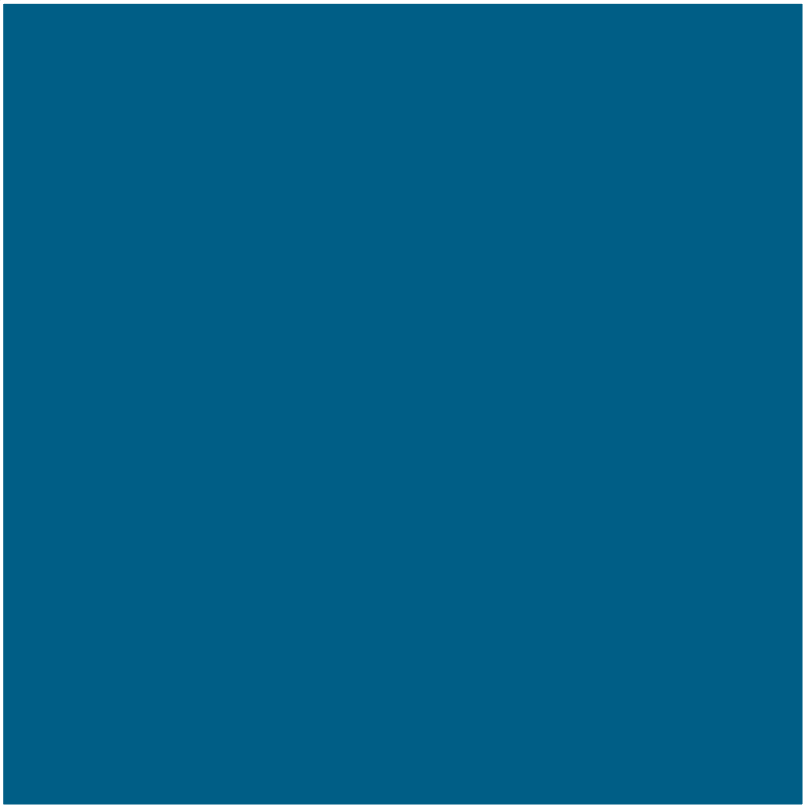
—Charles Nixon, Algonquin College



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I love learning. In victimology we get to explore new ways of understanding complex human experiences – a sacred opportunity to consider how we get through life's most difficult moments. Every year, I learn new things from survivors, our students, and our community partners.

— Benjamin Roebuck, Algonquin College



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Budgeting, operations, and planning performed in a seamless and transparent fashion provide the best decision-making tools for the College. Performing these tasks while ensuring both the mandate of the college and student success are met is paramount. These objectives drive me to do the best job every day.

—Jeff Threader, Algonquin College



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The fuel that continues to keep my engines running and motivates me is my students, who I learn from every day.

—Martin Taller, Algonquin College



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Putting energy into work is so easy with a team that supports me and the incredible results we achieve. I feel immensely privileged to work with students and help them evolve into our next generation of leaders.

—Martin Savard, Algonquin College



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My work as a professor and a coordinator is inspired and energized by the engaged and passionate students in my classrooms, and by my dedicated and supportive colleagues. Our collaborative relationships allow us to produce great outcomes!

—Vicki Grisim, Algonquin College



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Life is a journey we all travel. I strive to make a difference for myself and everyone I meet in whatever capacity I can. Knowledge is the key to the door of life-long learning, and I pass it on with pleasure so my students can do the same for others.

—Shelly Pond, Algonquin College



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I love creating an engaging classroom and an atmosphere of respect and trust. Seeing students grasp and apply course concepts to succeed academically, personally, and professionally inspires me to strive for excellence everyday. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is what sustains and renews my energy.

—Laurie Logan, Algonquin College



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I enjoy creating opportunities for non-traditional learners to open doors and discover what they are good at. I love how students' opinion of themselves changes as they build competency. I am inspired not by what these students learn, but by who they become.

—Jeff Jackson, Algonquin College



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Teaching was never a path I sought out, but I have always had a passion for sharing my knowledge and experience. Algonquin gave the unique privilege of blending a career with my trade. Seeing students get excited about learning a new skill drives me to become a better teacher.

—John McKinlay-Key, Algonquin College



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I believe a community college is a place of hope, a place where people can change their stars. I'm so fortunate to be able to be a part of the process. If I can help make a difference, I couldn't ask for more.

—Jennifer Baldauf, Angelina College



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"Life begins outside of your comfort zone." This is my motto as a speech instructor. Whether it be speaking in front of an audience or taking off from a 30' tower to ride a zipline, true growth and learning begins when we push ourselves to try new things.

—Sabrina Collins, Angelina College



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Lord, let me serve, whether it is on my job or walking through life. When given the opportunity to encourage, let me recognize and take it. If accolades should come my way, may I always remember to be grateful. If they do not, may I always remember to be grateful.

—Benetha Jackson, Angelina College



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My ultimate goal is to ensure my student-athletes understand they have the capability to be independent, intelligent individuals who are not afraid to ask for help, who seek answers until they feel empowered.

—Lorayne Chandler, Arizona Western College



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The Earth without art is just “eh.” Students pursuing a career in the arts often encounter the misconception that it is not a viable path to success. One of my goals is to help them discover the wide range of opportunities that exist to support a life in the arts.

—Julie Floss, Arizona Western College



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I love being an educator. It brings me great joy to teach and sow seeds of knowledge into the lives of my students. Teaching is not a job, but a calling. I'm a blessed man to be called to teach.

—Bradford Roe, Arkansas State University Mid-South



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Work hard. Forgive freely. Love always. Find the potential in everyone; it's there, even if it's hidden. Do your best to understand the perspective of the person in front of you. Respond with kindness, even if you disagree. Be patient. Show grace. And, as it's worth repeating, love always.

—Emilee Sides, Arkansas State University Mid-South



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If you do not have time to do it right, you sure do not have time to do it again!

—Johnny Powell, Arkansas State University Mid-South



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Teaching is my passion. I left twenty years of laboratory management behind to prepare phlebotomists for the challenges of combining medical techniques and patient communications, which ensure a quality patient experience. Watching my preparations come full circle as graduates give back to their communities has been my primary motivation.

—Monique Worley, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College



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Gil Gutknecht said, “Those who say it can’t be done should get out of the way of those who are already doing it.” As an administrator, my job is to clear the path for “those who are already doing it.”

—Gene Loflin, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College



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Nothing makes my day brighter than closely working with students, faculty, and staff. Creating that community is vital. I must remain open and caring in order to maximize this work.

—Mary Havens, Austin Community College



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Developing a new online program has resulted in over 40 percent of enrollment being online, a great accomplishment for the GIS Department at ACC, which provides diverse students with distance learning courses ranging from basic software skills to more advanced application programming to prepare them for a successful career.

—Stephanie Long, Austin Community College



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A student once told me they were graduating because of the groundwork I laid for them. I told them that while I may have provided the tools or strategies, it was ultimately their drive that earned them the milestone. I was just happy to be along for the journey.

—Jason Sanchez, Austin Community College



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Admit when you could have done better and your students in turn will be more open to accepting constructive criticism. Celebrate your students, not just when they pass a test, but when they fail and make the effort to try again.

—Lillian Huerta, Austin Community College



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My favorite activity as a child was playing school, my first high school job was teaching adult learners, and most of my work life has been devoted to education. I can't think of a more inspiring, challenging, worthwhile, or rewarding profession.

—Susan Meigs, Austin Community College



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There are six words that can transform the trajectory of a college student's life—"Good Morning, Future Leaders of Tomorrow." My daily greeting strengthens their connection to self-efficacy, self-motivation, and self-actualization. No matter their present circumstances, these ordinary yet powerful words continue to motivate today's students from becoming tomorrow's dropouts.

—Bea Gyimah, Baton Rouge Community College



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I believe in the power of community colleges to transform lives, and I believe in the tenacity of community college students to transform communities. There is no better opportunity for engagement and equity, and I am honored to be a part of a truly inspirational tradition in American education.

—Nina McCune, Baton Rouge Community College



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Using all that I have learned in every classroom, I have the privilege of instilling in those who enroll in my College Success Skills class the passion to become a life-long learner. Students expect to learn how to get A's, but the really learn how to succeed in school, work and life! It is a legacy of which I am very proud.

—Vinetta Frie, Baton Rouge Community College



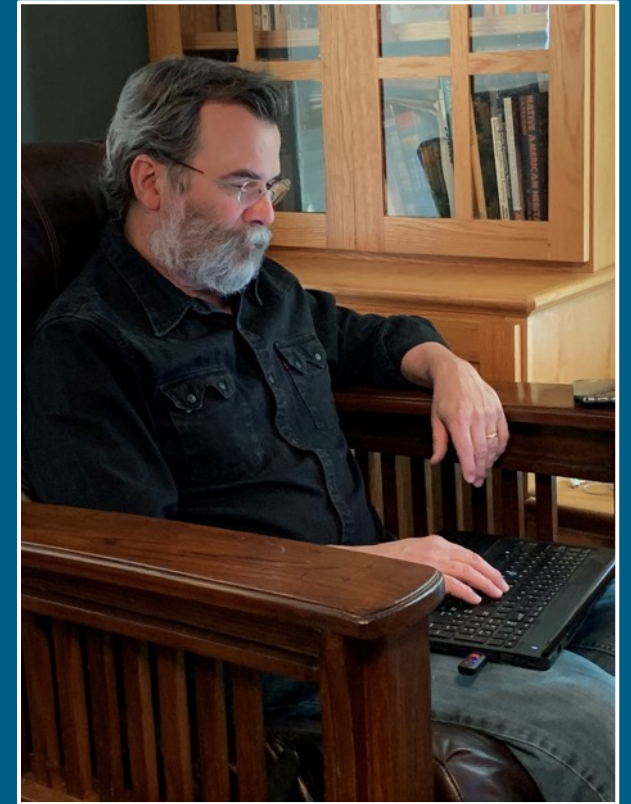
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I love helping my students analyze literature and discover its relevance through discussion and writing. Seeing students connect with prophetic voices from the past, such as those found in works by African Americans Ralph Ellison and Langston Hughes, inspires me with hope for the future.

—John Schaffer, Blinn College



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A student told me I treat everyone the same, and I took this as a great compliment. I strive to treat everyone fairly and honestly: student, colleague, friend, or stranger. I find this approach is the best way to teach and learn from others.

—Barb Corbisier, Blinn College



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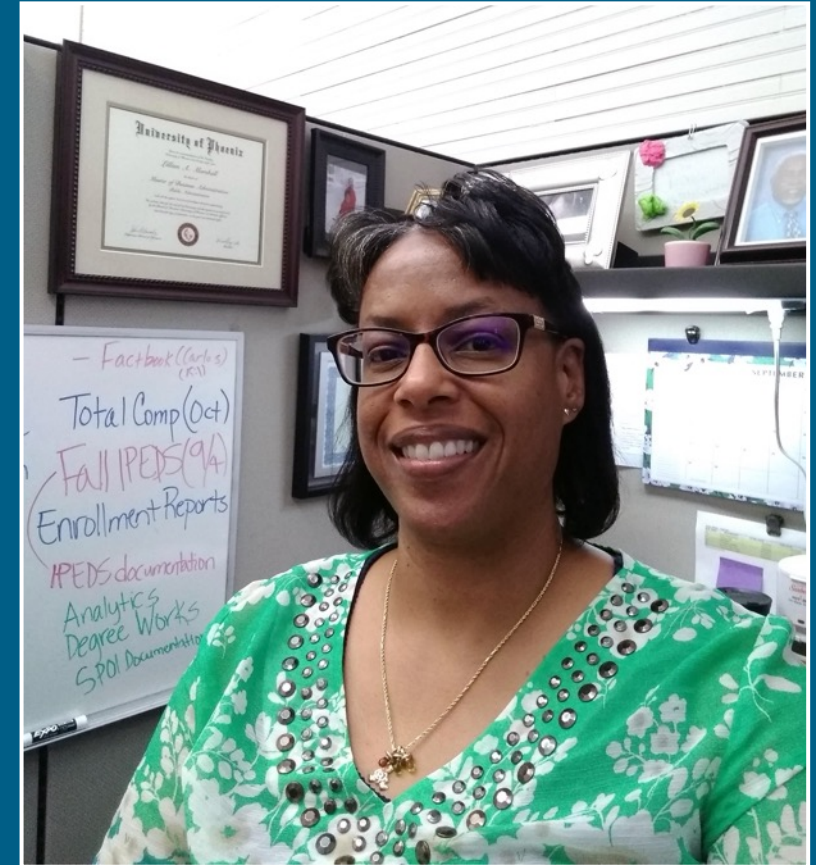


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Each day I am aware of the fact that my output is someone else's input, and that helps me to give my best at all times. I strive to be an example of integrity to everyone with whom I come in contact.

—Lillian Marshall, Blinn College



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The most rewarding aspect of my job is when, in a single moment, I see a veteran student settle into a new routine that helps them become a functional and inspiring member of society. I take great pride in their success.

—Misi Lair, BridgeValley Community and Technical College



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Higher education has allowed me to work with students from different walks of life. It brings me joy to know that I can help make a difference in their lives and help them become successful, positive members of our society.

—Carla Blankenbuehler, BridgeValley Community and Technical College



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Inspired by Jeffersonian visions of educational opportunity, I take seriously the idea that school is a place where no barriers exist between class, race, gender, or background. Education not only provides knowledge, but also to creates in students a sense of community, civic responsibility, tolerance, and humanity.

—Jennifer Hudson Allen, Brookhaven College



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The bedrock of successful teacher-student partnerships is relationship. Connecting on some level renders anyone teachable, regardless of roadblocks. Goal number one is student success as the student defines success. Students should feel and believe we are honored to teach them and appreciate being entrusted with that privilege.

—Melody Barnes, Brookhaven College



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At Carl Sandburg, the faculty and staff have always worked together to strive for student success. I am honored to be considered for this award, but ultimately, I am a small part of a wonderful team. I want to thank my amazing department for all their support.

—Michael (Tony) Paris, Carl Sandburg College



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Every clinical with nursing students is a day to teach and to help produce a prepared and competent nurse. I try to be a role model who is approachable, caring, and challenging. Each morning, my encouraging words are, "Be smart and be a blessing."

—Caroline Dyson, Central Carolina Technical College



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My inspiration comes from having the opportunity to learn new technologies in the ever-changing world of manufacturing, adapt courses to offer exciting new ideas, and to pass this knowledge along to my students. My advice: Learn as much as possible, stay informed, and be willing to accept new technologies.

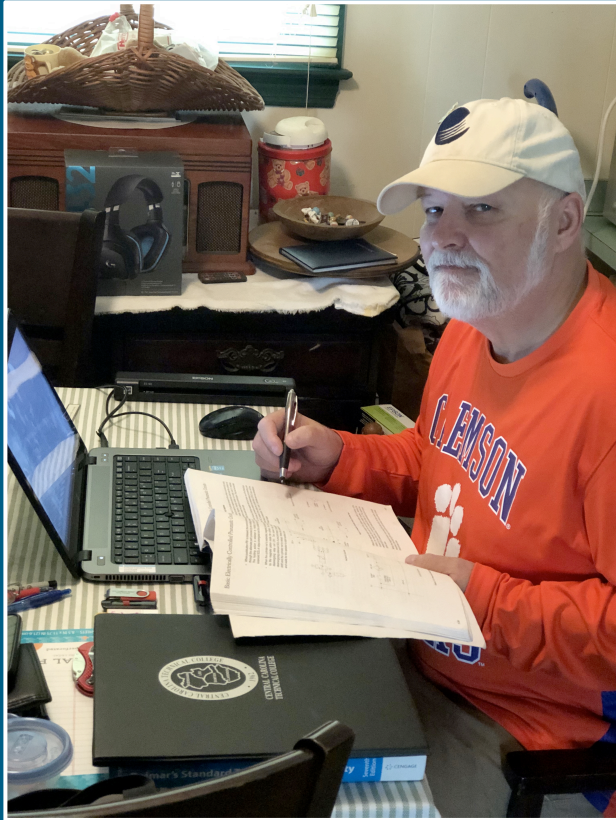
—Ladell Humphries, Central Carolina Technical College



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I began teaching to address a predicted shortage of technically trained workers in my community. Our community needs highly skilled workers to attract industrial operations to our area. My classes combine applied technical information and real-world experiences to illustrate how important and rewarding technical careers can be.

—Charles Scott, Central South Carolina Technical College



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My love for information resources, books, and libraries inspires and motivates me to do my very best to provide for the information needs of our students, faculty, and staff. I love to make learning fun and see the excitement when others discover new information.

—Denise Robinson, Central Carolina Technical College



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Students are unique individuals affected by their life experiences. A learning environment that uses multiple strategies facilitates learning. Students aren't adequately prepared with a one-size-fits-all learning experience. People must think for themselves, problem solve, communicate, cooperate, and adapt. This is the purpose of education. This inspires me to teach.

—Katie Sullivan-Ham, Central Carolina Technical College



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The evolution of classrooms and students is the most rewarding part of teaching. Each day and class brings with it a challenge, a moment to change a life, and a moment to have yourself be changed. These opportunities make each of us better contributors to our organizations and communities.

—Jessica Lea, Central Carolina Technical College



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I am always inspired when students succeed at difficult tasks that they believe are beyond their ability. While it takes work and repetition, it is special when it finally clicks into place. When students put that effort into learning, it pushes me to put that same effort into teaching.

—Gary Johnson, Central Carolina Technical College



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I teach my students the skills they need to become early childhood educators. As teachers, they will improve the lives of children and reshape the future for the better. What more could I ask for?

—Leslie Williams, Central Carolina Technical College



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If I share one smile, if teach one student, if I grow one flower, I am complete. Love mercy, do justly, walk with God.

—Gary Hinkle, Central Carolina Technical College



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I was born with a fascination and appreciation for the beauty of the natural world. The only things that I want to do in life are share that fascination with others and help to protect the natural processes that sustain us. My avocation is my vocation.

—Joshua Castleberry, Central Carolina Technical College



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I am humbled by students who just want a better life for their family. They are willing to swallow their pride and struggle with technology that is way out of their comfort zone to achieve a dream that once seemed impossible. What a privilege to be part of that!

—Deborah Nix, Central Carolina Technical College



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Learning works best when layering thoughts, actions, and histories among students, instructors, and colleagues. This layering, in turn, constructs a community of learners meshing together every resource they have to work toward solving problems in ways only possible in the classroom: Clumsily, earnestly, and, most importantly, collaboratively.

—Mitchell Herring, Central Carolina Technical College



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My students supply me with inspiration and motivation. When I see all that they are working through and overcoming, all the tasks in their lives that they juggle, I am amazed and so proud of them. I want to be a help, not a hindrance, to their success.

—Anna Maggard, Central Carolina Technical College



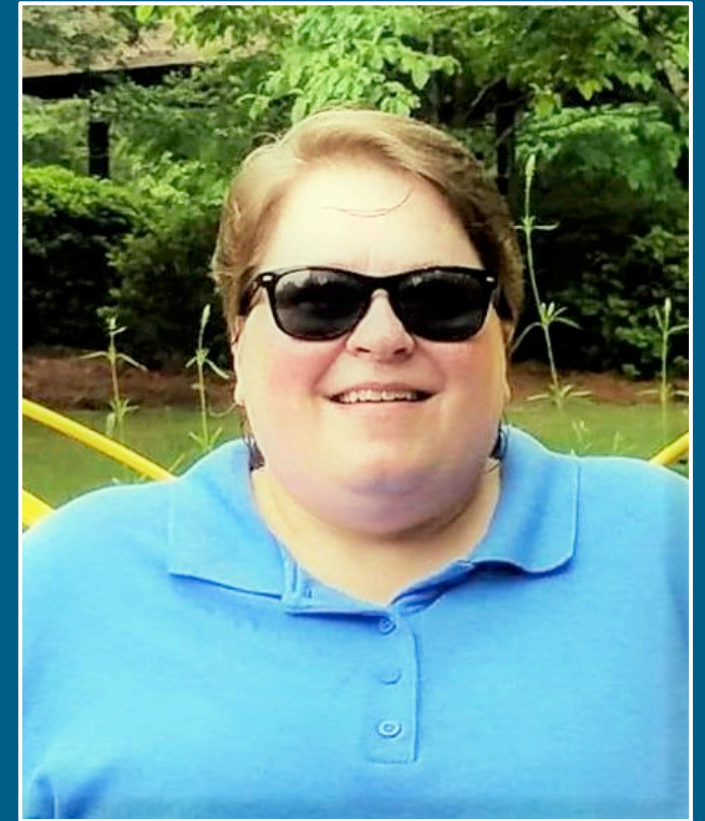
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Empowering change through connection. I help students learn to relate to others by modeling healthy relational skills so that they can relate and become healthy role models where they work. I teach this mantra: It is all about relationships - the rest is just details.

—Wendy Cunningham, Central Carolina Technical College



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I approach each class with an attitude that will enthuse and excite my students to greater levels of knowledge, skill, and understanding while also giving them the confidence they need to succeed. My actions determine whether a problem will be magnified or resolved, and a student inspired or robotized.

—Kevan Croteau, Central Carolina Technical College



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There are no dumb questions, only ones never asked. If only one student has the courage to ask the question, all students will benefit. I enjoy seeing light bulbs above my students' heads glow brightly when they capture and master difficult material. My students are the reason I teach.

—Richard Lavergne, Central Carolina Technical College



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As I reflect on my beliefs regarding teaching and learning, I am equipping my students with the necessary skills and ideas that will later be applied in real-world situations. Student learning includes posing challenging tasks that connect students to prior understandings and out-of-school experiences.

—Dion Alexander, Clover Park Technical College



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If I can inspire just one student to see the value in history, it is worth it. History is about people and what motivated them. My job is to help student discover those stories.

—Vicki Bridinger DeLeon, Clovis Community College



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As a nursing instructor, I strive to teach my students as I would give care at the bedside; totally focused on each person and where they are in that moment. Striving to give my soul to them, not just my knowledge. We never know what they are going through.

—Camille Jackson, Clovis Community College



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It is my privilege to pass on three generations of construction knowledge to students who are willing to learn and work with their hands to build a home that could outlast their own lives. I am truly blessed.

—Douglas Schlarbaum, Cochise College



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The service I give to my institution, students, and community brings me tremendous joy. Each day brings a new opportunity to grow and learn from others. I participated in a tamale-making event with the Phi Theta Kappa students. It was a great experience while helping my college community.

—Jennifer Wantz, Cochise College



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Theodore Roosevelt said, “It’s not the critic who counts. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.” This describes teaching and learning perfectly. Learning is hard, messy work, and I am honored my students choose me to be in the arena with them.

—Candace Boesiger, College of Southern Idaho



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My students inspire me. Many of them experience challenging life events that take them off their planned learning journey. My goals are to understand, motivate, and challenge my students to think critically about math. When math becomes a conversation, I know that skills are strong and math is meaningful.

—Barbara Bernardi, College of DuPage



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We need to connect content to the outside world, instilling a natural drive for self-directed learning. Educators have a privileged seat in the classroom, and while we may start out in the driver's seat, we need to move quietly to the back, allowing our students the opportunity for transformative learning.

—Elizabeth Baker, College of DuPage



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My position is service oriented and it gives me the honor of meeting people from all walks of life who are here to change their trajectories. I derive great satisfaction from making students aware of and giving them access to the help, opportunities, and services that will enable them to succeed.

—Laura Lerdal, College of DuPage



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I value creating an atmosphere that allows students to be engaged in the learning process. Education centers on self-discovery, practical application, global understanding, and foundations that have real meaning in a student's life. Presenting curriculum in ways that nurture students' interests ultimately assists them in creating inherent passions for knowledge.

—Stacie Haen-Darden, College of DuPage



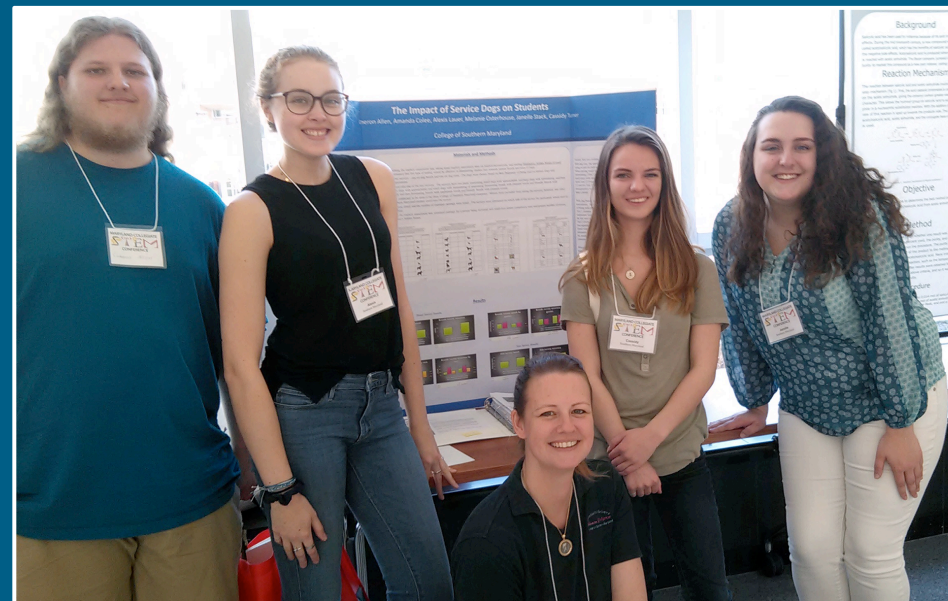
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A teacher who is inspirational to others must also be inspired by others. When I was a student, I only had school to worry about. My community college students have families, bills, and jobs, and yet nothing will stop them from finishing their degree. Truly inspiring!

—Melanie Osterhouse, College of Southern Maryland



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The famous quote, "A good teacher teaches but a great one inspires," doesn't mention that a teacher can also be inspired. Many times, I learn an alternate approach to problem solving from my students. I keep up with evolving technology, fueled by their enthusiasm. Learning from students inspires me to teach.

—Raji Kannampuzha, Collin College



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My passion for helping others achieve their goals motivates me every day. I am fortunate to work at a college that allows freedom to foster creativity, innovation, service, and academic excellence among our faculty. It is an honor to serve as an advocate for those helping move students toward success.

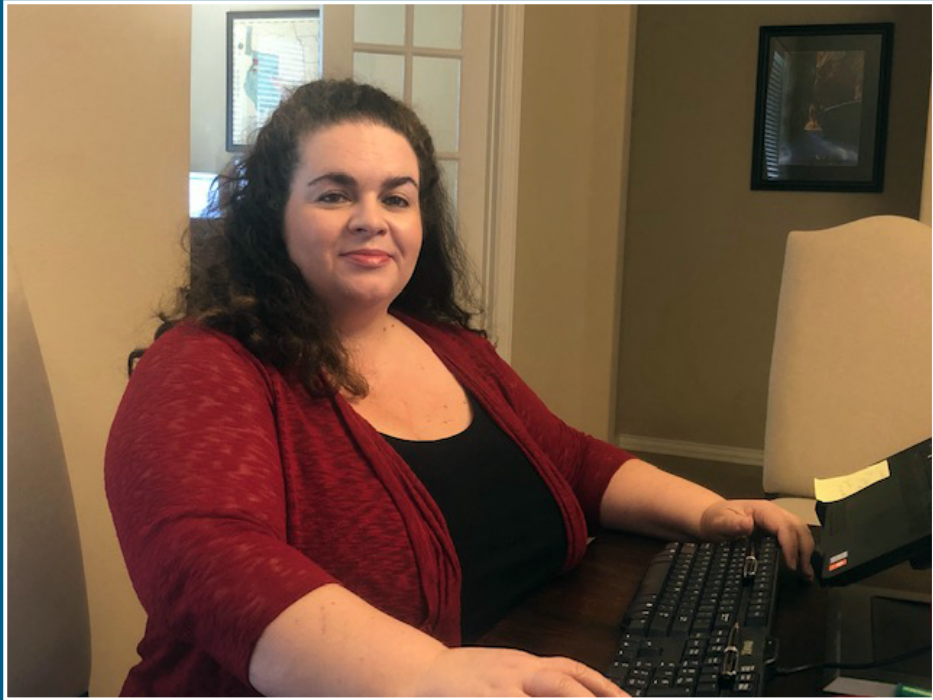
—Lupita Tinnen, Collin College



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My passion is collaborating across divisions to enable students to have a greater agency in their learning journey. Supporting my faculty efforts to engage students while fostering an environment of academic excellence is an immensely enriching experience, and reminds me that at Collin, students truly do come first.

—Dawn Richardson, Collin College



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Student diversity at Collin College is a wonderful motivator. My job is to improve the support systems we offer and to create new supports flexible enough to meet the needs of each student. My colleagues are superlative. I could not ask for a better work environment.

—Joan Reese, Collin College



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My teaching goal is to make sure students succeed through shared experiences, exploring diverse issue and ethical situations presented in their criminal justice courses. Students learn together by developing critical thinking skills and "hands on" experiences they will be able to use whenever they enter the workforce.

—Leroy (Lee) DeBoer, Collin College



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"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." - Marian Wright Edelman. How lucky am I to wake up each day and know my work environment is one that contributes to making the world a better place!

—Debbie Dunn, Collin College



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Teaching is about student success. For every decision I am faced with, I ask myself, “Will this encourage student success, or be a roadblock to success?” When you ask yourself that question, the decisions becomes easy.

—Catherine Thurman, Collin College



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Instructors must care for students in order to serve them. The essence of educating students comes from a love of serving and caring enough to share your knowledge. Teach them well, serve them well, and pay it forward so the cycle continues.

—John Hines, Collin College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I would like to thank the Community College of Allegheny County for nominating me for this honor. Dr. King once said, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically." I am humbled to have received this award. Yours is the struggle.

—Christopher Robinson, Community College of Allegheny County



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Every day my students inspire me and touch my life, and I strive to instill in them a love for nursing. My students know that I care about them and want them to succeed. Nursing is more than a job--it's an art!

—Laura Meadows, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College



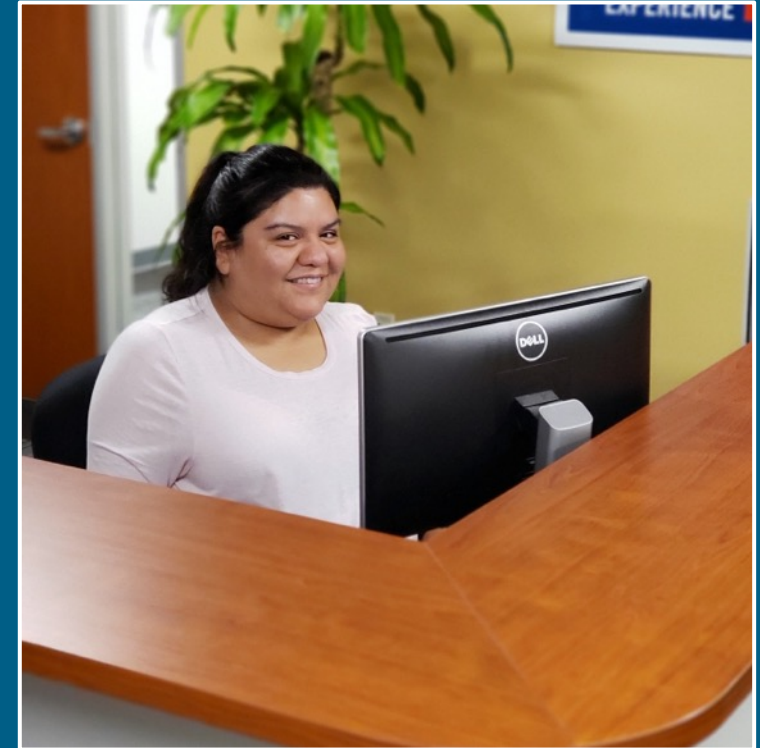
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We each have a responsibility to push the boundaries we see so the next generation can go further. Whether those barriers be environmental, economic, or even self-imposed. Remember those who paved the road you walk on, and don't forget to do the same for others.

—Faviola Gutierrez, Dallas County Community College District



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What if? The two most powerful words in our educator toolbox.

—Terri Di Paolo, Dallas County Community College District



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Growing up, I read anything and everything I could get my hands on. Absorbing every word to obtain the key to future success through the power of knowledge. I feel blessed as an adult to be able to empower adults in this same manner through my career in higher education.

—Gloria Smith, Dallas County Community College District



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I would like to thank Chief Hill and the entire Police Department for submitting the information to be recognized for this award. Community Service means a great deal to me, and I will continue to help others, with and without being recognized.

—Thelma Smith, Dallas County Community College District



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Education stands alone. Once the information is learned, it remains for a lifetime. Knowledge is power. Knowledge applied with life experiences creates a life lesson. My primary principle is to influence persons to use life lessons in concert with knowledge.

—Rickey Williams, Sr., Danville Area Community College



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Our lives are defined by the decisions that we make and opportunities provided. As an educator and leader, I feel that it is important to be a positive influence in my students' lives. Through positive role modeling and professional involvement we can inspire, motivate, and empower our students!

—Linda Miles, Daytona State College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Today's students are inundated with information from the web, social media, and textbooks with added e-content. As a librarian, I believe that helping students filter and evaluate information should be every educator's job, and information literacy should be part of every class and every lesson.

—Dustin Weeks, Daytona State College



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Courage is required to experience new things. Experience is required to improve at those things. With experience, we gain the courage to continue.

—Casey Knecht, Daytona State College



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As an immigrant from Venezuela, I truly understand the challenges that a nontraditional student faces when entering the higher education system. My history makes me very sensitive to diversity and achievement gaps. I am dedicated to removing barriers to student success!

—Karla Moore, Daytona State College



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I am thankful to work with amazing faculty and staff members to help students in and out of the classroom. Working with faculty to help students make meaningful connections with what they are learning and to open their minds to new ideas is incredibly rewarding.

—Alycia Ehlert, Daytona State College



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Excellence in teaching is not based on how much you know. It is having the audacity to challenge your knowledge with innovative ideas, the courage to put aside life challenges, and the will to serve the community and the nation.

—Sadhana Ray, Delgado Community College



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Lou Holtz said, "Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it." Excellent instructors instill confidence in students so they have the ability, motivation, and attitude to succeed in the classroom.

—Margaret Karen Menge, Delgado Community College



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Students who have the desire to succeed as much as I want them to inspire me. One strategy that drives my success is being determined and full of grit. Words of wisdom: Always chase your dreams and never give up. Anything is possible with effort and dedication.

—Laura McDonald, East Central College



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I feel proud going into medical practices in my community and seeing Certified Medical Assistant graduates caring for patients. Not only have I made a difference in their lives, but each graduate is making a difference in the lives of so many others.

—Cheryl Vineyard, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell



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I'm driven to help my students change their life trajectories and that of their community. I want them to be change agents at all levels. I work to help them be the proverbial drop of water in a still pond, whose influence ripples out and interrupts the status quo.

—Edna Yokum, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell



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I am honored to be a recipient for El Centro College. My goal for each of my students is to help them be successful, productive leaders in the field of nursing.

—Marjorie Jackson, El Centro College



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To have a place to belong, to dream, and to make mistakes is deeply powerful. My classroom is that place. As Maya Angelou said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

—Mwauna Maxwell, El Centro College



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My years of design and print publication have taught me to be knowledgeable about graphics, be intentional about design, and do research to know exactly what it takes to get the result the customer wants.

—Eddie Walker, El Centro College



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It is always rewarding to see a student grow through the year and start his or her new career. The excitement students have at the end of their time with us helps to feed the motivational needs of the next class. Knowledge is power!

—Sandra Walker, Fayetteville Technical Community College



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I am focused on moving Health Information Technology into the future of the healthcare and wellness industry. It is with creativity and an inner desire to further learning that I promote activities and programs that will make my students productive and successful employees.

—Elizabeth Whitmer, Florida SouthWestern State College



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One of the important keys to success is doing what you don't want to do, even when you don't want to do it. I often refer back to this saying and frequently share it with my students.

—Shawna Coram, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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The subject I teach is only secondary to my dream of helping students. My time devoted in learning the subject I teach is only secondary to my goal of fostering a positive relationship with students. In the end, success will be measured by words of kindness to one another.

—Guerino Terracciano, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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As a dean, I see the magic that occurs in classrooms every day, and I am moved by the incredible devotion shown by my faculty and the perseverance shown by our students. Our college is a factory of potential, using education to produce opportunities for our students.

—Jeff Hess, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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I am inspired daily by those who work around me, including administrators, staff, faculty, and students. Their perseverance and tenacity through virtually any obstacle are testament to the resolve and internal drive each possesses. We do what we do each day for them.

—Bryan Stewart, Florida State College at Jacksonville



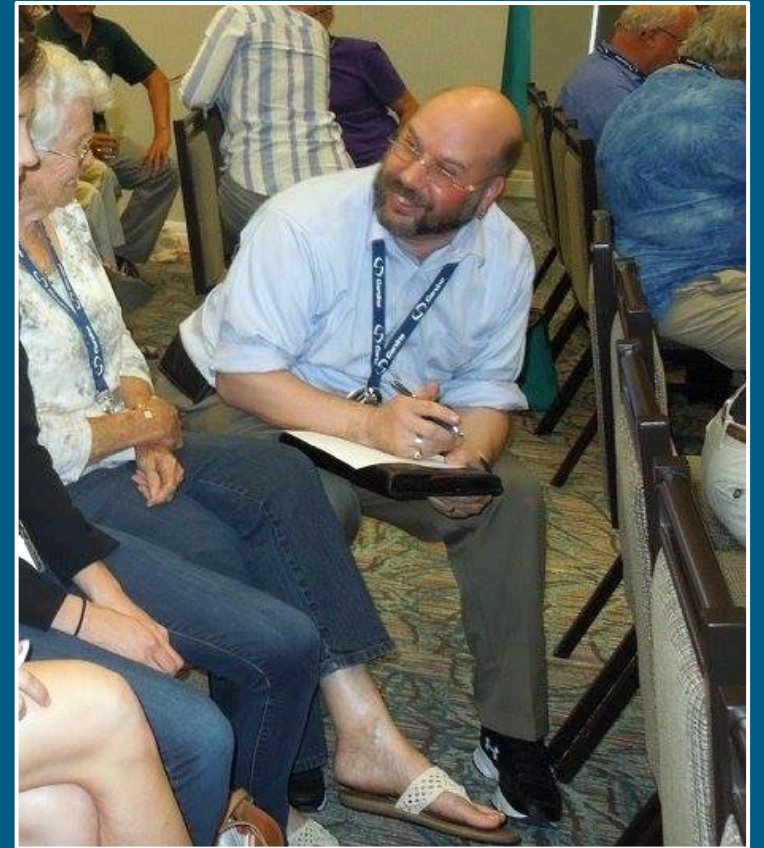
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Anthropology touches our lives in many ways, from our past to our present and future. I am pleased to meet diverse students from different walks of life and teach them skills applicable to their varied traditional and applied careers like archaeology, forensics, and medicine.

—Brad Biglow, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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My student evaluations often say that I am funny. I hope that means my students are having fun while learning. I have found that having a quick wit and a cadre of funny voices to engage the classroom are quite handy and demonstrate my effort to innovate through creative means.

— Suzanne Hess, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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Each new class is an opportunity for everyone in the room to grow. While our students learn from us, we get better at connecting with them. Every semester, every class period offers new opportunities to improve.

—Brian Wiley, Florida State College at Jacksonville



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Everyday is a GREAT day to be a Buster!

—Kim Harrison, Garden City Community College



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As a math instructor, I realize that many students struggle to grasp mathematical concepts. I try to be as patient, engaging, and understanding as possible when teaching so that everyone in my class can learn and expand their knowledge of mathematics.

—Danny Vingochea, GateWay Community College (AZ)



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I'm not a teacher, I'm a coach. My job is to keep students focused on our learning goals and to constantly create a loving culture of learning. Their job is to co-create that culture with me while teaching themselves. I coach. They teach. We co-create a culture of inclusion.

—Michael Tapscott, GateWay Community College (AZ)



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Paulo Coelho wrote, "It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting." While I cannot directly help every student reach their dreams, I am inspired to work at an organization where individuals collaboratively help students fulfill their dreams, even ones they never thought were possible.

—Ryan Johnson, GateWay Community College



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I am honored to receive this award. I appreciate all the support and guidance I have received at GCC. I strive each day to prepare students to become life-long learners. My goal is to make them feel supported, connected, and prepared as they enter the workforce.

—Judy Basham, Glendale Community College



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Our world is a world of information. My job as a librarian is to teach students how they might discover, evaluate, and utilize this information. Librarianship has never been more critical to our world and our students, nor has it been more exciting.

—Sean O'Brien, Glendale Community College (AZ)



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The desire to teach began in my role as a counselor. I had the opportunity to listen to both students and faculty discuss their experiences and expectations in the classroom. I believe that teaching is the ultimate profession because we are constantly impacting the lives of others.

—Travis Gleaton, Greenville Technical College



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Be it our major, the college we attended, or our career pathway, how many of us attribute these major life decisions to, on some level, a professor? Teaching must always be handled with care. Educators influence life trajectories.

—Deborah Dorsey, Harford Community College



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The very best part of my job is the informal, co-curricular time I spend with students. Through alternative breaks and immersive leadership programs, I have the opportunity to be a part of once-in-a-lifetime, transformative learning experiences for our students. There is something humbling and magical about that.

—Caitlin White, Harford Community College



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Watching teachers nurture the spark of learning in their students inspires me daily to support our faculty so that they can keep their focus on teaching. A phenomenal team of co-workers, administrators, and faculty motivate me to do my best to help keep our college workplace running smoothly.

—Barb Schmid, Harrisburg Area Community College



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Teaching is inherently political. Everything we do – from selecting texts and designing course policies to grading writing assignments and interacting with students – is imbued with power. If we are not actively working to dismantle the systems of power that disadvantage our students, we are complicit in sustaining them.

—Christine Nowik, Harrisburg Area Community College



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My passion is to keep the desire for learning alive. By feeding the flame of learning, students leave wanting to know more. Victor Hugo once said, “Change your opinions, keep your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots.” I fully accept the responsibility of kindling lifelong learning in nursing.

—Monica Filburn, Harrisburg Area Community College



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Teaching students the art of listening is challenging in a society that puts the emphasis on talking. When students try listening and share how well it enhanced their interactions, it is a humbling and satisfying feeling. It is a privilege to watch students become professional colleagues in human services.

—Wendy Bratina, Harrisburg Area Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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All learning happens in community, in relationship. I make space for the whole student to inhabit the learning environment: their dreams, fears, work life, family, communities. And I try to bring my whole self. Together, we make meaning out of words, sentences, paragraphs, and texts.

—Allison Green, Highline College



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Contributing to the success of students, faculty, and staff motivates me to go to work every day. My philosophy for personal success is to inspire others, be supportive, listen more, and be an educator who also learns from those you help educate.

—Keitha Robinson, Houston Community College



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Students are inspired to develop an interest in the subject matter when they know they are heard and feel a sense that their voice matters. Giving an attentive ear to student questions and concerns and involving them in the learning process positively impacts students in their academic pursuit

—Bernard Adamitey, Hudson County Community College



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I tell my students that teaching is a two-way street. I hope to teach and inspire them to be the proud of their achievements. They, in turn, teach me to be patient, creative, and energetic. Each day and every class is a new adventure. I welcome the journey!

—Monika Chappilliquen, Hudson County Community College



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Connect with your students, highlight their strengths, and show them their value. I always try to bring out the human perspective in the classroom; no pedagogy can be complete without it!

—Shannonine Caruana, Hudson County Community College



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Our students are our unsung heroes. I am inspired and amazed by their resilience. They have not given up in spite of the uncertainty of everyday life. They have showed us that education will always prevail.

—Maria Schirta, Hudson County Community College



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My interest is in encouraging students to write more without worry. I want students to get past the notion that there is only one chance to get writing correct so they feel empowered to take on any writing challenge their college courses present.

—Angela Hebert, Hudson County Community College



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Meeting students in their moment of greatest potential and helping them evolve into the people they wish to become is a gift. I am honored to be able to walk with students and help them beyond the barriers they face. There is nowhere else I'd rather be.

—Leslie Quinn, Johnson County Community College



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Supporting students on their journey is one of my favorite parts of my role at JCCC. Living the college's mission of inspiring learning makes every day an adventure. I love to come to work to help students gain skills for success and to achieve their goals and aspirations.

—Valerie Mann, Johnson County Community College



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It's very fulfilling to be a part of a higher education community that enables me to contribute to the overall success of our programs and, most importantly, our students. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist others in reaching their academic and career goals; it is definitely the most rewarding aspect of my job.

—Melissa Lachcik, Joliet Junior College



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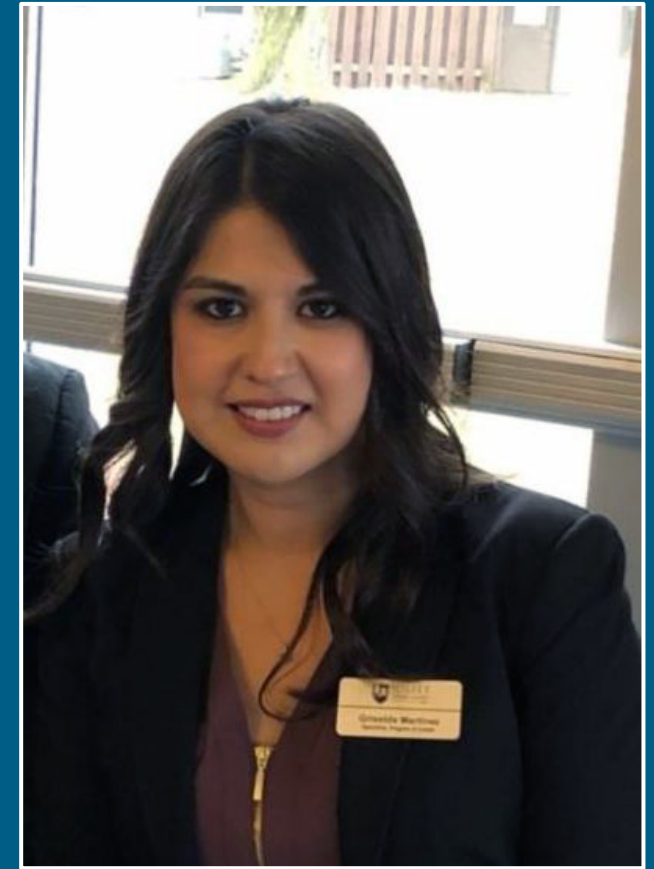


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Success is not only helping students complete training, but being inquisitive, determining their challenges, and providing them with tools for success. The manner in which I serve my students impacts their next steps. I make it a priority to allow them to impact me and the way I serve my next students.

—Griselda Martinez, Joliet Junior College



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As an educator, I believe in establishing a classroom culture where learners feel empowered to take risks and let their voices be heard. The goal is to create an engaging experience that fosters innovation, critical thinking, and imagination.

—Micah Goodding, Kilgore College



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I am a student of the Fire Academy. I am a career Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter. I am Fire Fighter with the Texas Air National Guard. I began instructing at the Fire Academy in 2008. In 2014 I came on as the Director. It has been a full circle.

—John Randall, Lamar Institute of Technology



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There is no single best way to teach, but teachers who support the different needs of students with a variety of teaching approaches are rewarded with improved learning. I thrive on engaging each student as a unique and individual learner. Their success is truly the greatest reward.

—Michelle DeMoss, Lamar Institute of Technology



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My daily motivation comes from serving others, helping them see the potential in themselves, and encouraging them to strive to be their best self. That is what makes my heart smile! Building a team that values trust, collaboration, and mutual respect will always create success.

—Patty Collins, Lamar State College Orange



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Nothing makes more of a difference for me than making a difference for other people, especially students. Education is built on the foundations of teaching, learning, and interactive relationships. Positive training of young minds can help change the world.

—Donald Ball, Jr., Lamar State College Orange



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My motivation is seeing students out in the medical field living their dream and knowing that I helped them to reach that goal. Developing mentor relationships with students is what helps to drive success. My words of wisdom: Believe in yourself and your ability to overcome and succeed.

—Jessica Montgomery, Lamar State College Orange



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The best moment as an instructor is when I walk into a pharmacy and see my past students using the knowledge and skills they've learned in my classroom and lab.

—Loan Nguyen, Lamar State College Orange



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The best part of my job is that it inspires growth and creation. The harder the challenge, the more excited and driven I am to overcome it. Setting a personal goal for each task helps drive my daily success at Lamar State College Orange.

—Crystal Compton, Lamar State College Orange



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In an uncertain world, nothing gives me more hope for the future than introducing students to good ideas and excellent literature, and then listening as they process and discuss them. We push each other to evaluate our sources and deepen our critical thinking.

—Amanda Smith, Lamar State College Orange



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—Truman Hare, Lamar State College Port Arthur



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Every student has the potential to contribute to society and to realize their fullest potential. I feel privileged to help my students determine what inspires them and guide them toward achievement. They are the doctors, engineers, programmers, and leaders of tomorrow.

—Sarita Medhekar, Lamar State College Port Arthur



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Writing is by nature personal, and I encourage my composition students to “write what you know.” The narratives of their lives inspire and motivate me daily. I tear up reading some of them, and laugh aloud at others. Successful students need to feel enthusiastic and empowered!

—Michelle Judice, Lamar State College Port Arthur



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As long as you learn something new, you never really fail at any task you take on. Nothing is hard, it is only challenging. Just like your muscles need to tear themselves down to come back stronger, your mind need to be pushed to its limits to grow.

—Armando I. Perez, Laredo College



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At all stages of our lives, we are students who continuously seek to enhance our knowledge and skills. Throughout my higher education career, whether as faculty or as administrator, I always strive to lead by example and inspire students and colleagues through my actions, commitment, and leadership.

—Veronica Martinez, Laredo College



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When tackling a big project, look at the whole timeline and prioritize what needs to be done each day. Eat the elephant one bite at a time—and drink lots of water!

—Bonnie Marsh, Laurel Business/Technical Institute



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My goal is guide students to cultivate their own garden of learning as they grow and blossom. Students should be given an opportunity to explore a variety of materials and equipment that are designed to enhance their critical thinking and decision-making skills.

—Ann Renee Guy, Lawson State Community College



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Teaching is all about experiences! I love providing opportunities through student service learning, problem-solving, and project-based learning. Engaging in these experiences encourages concept application, peer collaboration, reflection, self-discovery, and true growth as human beings. I believe as educators, we must facilitate such metacognitive moments for our students.

—Shamim Arastu, Lone Star College—CyFair



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Learning comes from teaching. Teaching comes from learning.  
Being a successful teacher requires successful students.  
Engaged students learn more than unengaged students. Active  
learning is the key to student engagement; every teacher must  
discover their own key.

— Shawn Miller, Lone Star College



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I relish the opportunity to impart the enthusiasm I have for the study of government and its institutions onto students. Having been in their shoes myself as a former student at the same institution, I know how important a teacher's enthusiasm is for unlocking students' passion for learning.

—Matthew Newton, Lone Star College—Kingwood



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I am inspired by my students. Each of them has a different reason for being in college. No matter their story, I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of their journey.

—Nathalie Vega-Rhodes, Lone Star College–Kingwood



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My work and passion as a teacher-educator is guided by my belief that every student in my class is reachable, teachable, and WORTHY of my efforts. My mission is to prepare aspiring teachers to become effective educators and to model what effective teaching looks like and feels like.

—Brandolyn Jones, Lone Star College—Kingwood



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Education is what gives people power. It is up to us, as educators, to help provide that power to all, focusing on the disenfranchised to help them see their wealth of talents and beautiful skills.

—Heather Brasher, Lone Star College—University Park



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Thomas Jefferson said it best when he stated, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." This is the mentality we as educators must embrace and bring into our classrooms on a daily basis.

—Luke Bendick, Lone Star College—University Park



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I believe educators reside in the hearts of their students, not just their minds. While I could never have predicted that my career would be in the classroom, I find my work incredibly fulfilling. What motivates me is cultivating an inclusive environment with students who bring a diversity of perspectives.

—Madulika Tandon, Lone Star College—University Park



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The bursar's office is just as dedicated to student success as advisors and faculty. Our focus is on much-needed financial literacy. A tuition bill is sometimes a student's first encounter with a bill. We create small moments of financial literacy that impact a lifetime.

—Deyanira Johnson, Lone Star College—University Park



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My classroom is a safe place where mutual trust and respect are practiced daily. Students should never hesitate nor worry about sharing thoughts, ideas, and opinions to actively collaborate with their peers. This is the essence of investigative discovery. In a sense, my classroom becomes a "crucible of ideas."

—Methias Plank, Lone Star College—University Park



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A former student recently shared a personal accomplishment he had achieved on the job. He was expressing his thankfulness for the education he received which made his career path possible. What could be more rewarding than being in a position to help make a positive impact in a person's life?

—Matt Luckett, Madisonville Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Making positive and manageable changes in our institution has a huge impact on the climate and a positive impact on student success. We thrive on creating an ecosystem that allows faculty and staff to empower each other. Focusing on employee success is my highest priority.

—Seth Baker, Malcolm X College



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Teaching is an act of love and power. As educators, we help students come into their own and allow them to see all that they can become. Along the way, we also get to know ourselves better and recognize our own possibilities. Imagine a world of caring, self-aware learners!

—Lani Montreal, Malcolm X College



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I always strive to make sure my students have access to the highest quality information I can give them. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, it is my job to continue to offer the most appropriate rigor and make sure my students learn Biology.

—Kimberly Matthews, Martin Community College



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There are students that come through the system that keep you focused and grounded. They are my inspiration. The students that eagerly learn what is put in front of them. They are not all high achievers, but they put forth the effort it takes to get the job done.

—George Dixon, Martin Community College



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Life is full of challenges. Take advantage of any opportunity to improve your chances of success. The only person holding your chances of success back is you. HVACR training prepares students for a career. Encouragement of self motivation prepares students for a successful career.

—Guy Leggett, Martin Community College



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Thank you for the opportunity to accept the 2020 Excellence Award. I love serving others and am blessed to work with students, faculty, co-workers, and the Waco area community. Since 1991 I have worked in the Business Office, Small Business Development Center, Mac Card Office, Nursing Program, and Continuing Education Program.

—Faith Glatter, McLennan Community College



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When we study music, we are taught that you must learn the rules before breaking them. I follow a similar concept in teaching. First, why are you singing these words and for what purpose? Watching students find the answers to these questions on their own is inspiring.

—Edgar Sierra, McLennan Community College



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What motivates me the most are my students! I see their determination and drive and it makes me strive to be my best. Students learn a lot from us, but we can also learn a lot from them!

—Christina Ethington, Metropolitan Community College



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As an educator, you always have the capacity to learn. I believe students are more open to educators who realize they do not know everything and are willing to learn new perspectives and ideas. We are all learners at different levels in the classroom.

—Crystal Johnson, Metropolitan Community College



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Teaching is a two-way street. Teaching students new information is the main point of our courses; however, we can learn just as much from our students. We love seeing the "aha" moment in our student's eyes, and they love seeing it in their instructors' eyes. Learning is for everyone.

—Susan Satterfield, Metropolitan Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Leading and inspiring future teachers is my passion. Working to ensure all students have empathetic and compassionate educators who help them learn, grow, and experience success is what I consider to be one of my life's callings. Be the change you wish to see in the world.

—Vanessa Zamzow, Metropolitan Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Typically, I work with adult learners who are coming back to re-tool and retrain in our Career and Technical Education programs. Many are first-generation college students and have overcome so many barriers to reach their new career goals. I am thankful every day to be part of their journey.

—Tatia Shelton, Metropolitan Community College



## 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I witness students learn more about themselves and evolve into individuals with purpose and confidence. These transformations are possible because of the hard work of the student as well as my colleagues. I am inspired to support my team and to ensure each student feels valued so that transformations continue.

—Andrea Henderson, Metropolitan Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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The best advice I received when starting my teaching career over ten years ago was to connect with my students. I initiate conversations to find out why students are in my class and connect the learning to where they have been and where they intend to go with their education.

—Tammy Madsen, Metropolitan Community College

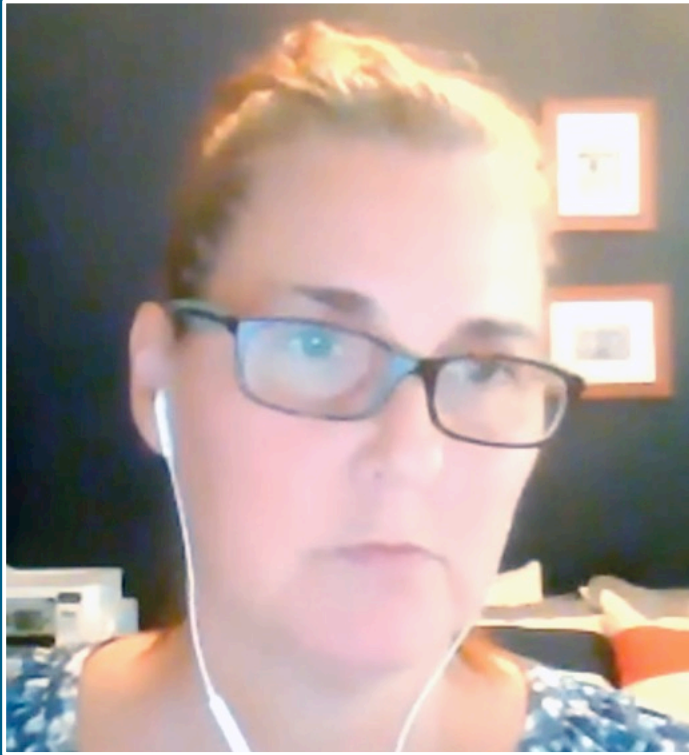


# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I am motivated by my students' successes, not just in my class but in life. I am inspired by their eagerness to learn, their utmost appreciation of my support in helping them to achieve their dreams, and their ability to take responsibility when they are not giving their best.

—Janel Hagar, Midlands Technical College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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What motivates me to teach? It may sound like a cliché, but it's all about the students. Nothing sounds and feels better than when a student finally says, "Oh, I get it!" after the second, third or fourth explanation. We're in this business because we love serving students.

—Floyd Bowles, Midlands Technical College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Career education is one of the most rewarding fields. The transformation from unsure to competent is incredible to see. These students come to college determined to change their lives. It is my pleasure to play a part in the attainment of that dream.

—Candice Geiger, Midlands Technical College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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A colleague once told me, "As college instructors, we have the best jobs in the world. We get to share our favorite subject with our students everyday." It is my hope that I share the excitement and opportunities the business world has to offer with all my students.

—Renelle Mooney, Mid-Plains Community College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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The most important thing an instructor can do is build meaningful relationships with his or her students. Learning is not going to take place unless students feel safe and supported. They need to know that you are on their side.

—Emily Rosado, Montgomery College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I love having the opportunity to learn from students who are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education. Having found their private voices, they look for their public ones. It is magical when the learning experience becomes communal and everyone in the classroom participates in the teaching process.

—Albert Kapikian, Montgomery College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Good teachers think of their students first, and their colleagues second. Teaching is rife with old-fashioned ways of doing things that are never challenged because people care too much about offending others. Challenge these presumptions and you risk your future; don't challenge them and you risk your students' future.

—Matthew Colburn, Montgomery College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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Teaching fails to convey the ardent and dynamic practice of creation, re-evaluation, and synergy that we strive for daily. As purveyors of knowledge and guardians of patience, we should embolden students through playfulness and encouraging a learner spirit that is not perfectionistic, but rather inquisitive, critical, empathetic, and resilient.

—Alicia Sanderman, Montgomery College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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As a Laboratory Coordinator, I try to make science fun! Labs are a chance for science majors and non-science majors alike to be wowed. Students get to have hands on experiences, learn skills, and see the theories they learn in the classroom come to life in the laboratory.

— Christin Slaughter, Montgomery College



# 2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



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I enjoy connecting with my students in a meaningful way, giving my best, listening to what's been said and what's untold, and seeking to understand. Dedication my life to my students is a ministry, not just a job. My work as a professor and counselor is soulfully meaningful.

—Jeri Gresham, Montgomery College



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Teaching is an opportunity to share and learn new information. As educators, it's our responsibility to create and foster environments that inspire students to learn, to ignite a fire that burns so deep that the information gained transcends the learning environment and travels with the student.

—Levena De La Rosa, Montgomery College



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My work often begins with students at pre-admission, but my reach continues through the onboarding process and as they progress throughout their educational journeys and beyond. At each stage, I try to meet students where they are, using an approach of challenge and support.

—Tyra Peanort, Montgomery College

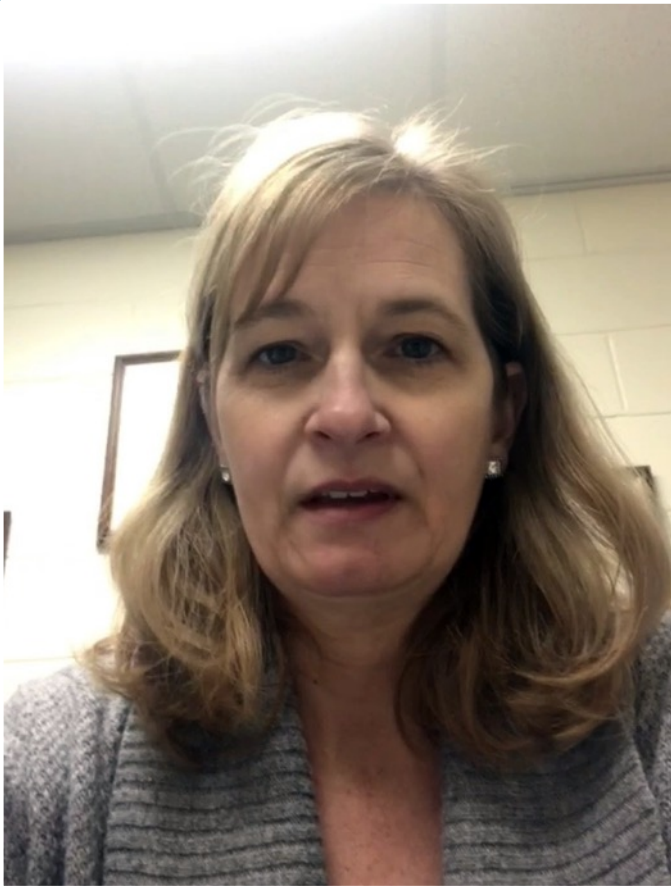


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My goal is to keep it real when teaching students accounting. To introduce accounting concepts, we brainstorm real life examples the students can relate to, such as buying gas for their car. I also insist students explain concepts in their own words, rather than memorizing textbook definitions.

—Heather Thomas, Montgomery County Community College



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Higher education is the most challenging and rewarding environment in which I have worked. The best outcomes and my favorite projects have been the ones I least expected. I am inspired by our learners and my colleagues every day.

—Patrick Rodgers, Montgomery County Community College



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It was instilled in me to always do my best. Not someone else's best, but my best. Supporting someone's best is important because in being their best, they will begin to see the possibilities of becoming better.

—Michelle Donovan, Montgomery County Community College



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Sometimes the simplicity of the lesson is taught exceptionally well by the student, with the impact profoundly anchored within the advisor.

—Elinor Brown, Morgan Community College



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I am passionate about infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and those who teach and nurture them. This is an important job because 95 percent of brain development happens in the first five years. I believe that early childhood professionals do their best, then when they know better, they do better.

—Sherri Amen, Morgan Community College



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Educators can be powerful catalysts of personal growth in students and cultural transformation beyond the classroom when they model personal integrity, humility, respect, compassion, curiosity, humor, an authentic love and joy of learning, critical thinking based on scientific evidence, and an uncompromising commitment to high ethical standards and intellectual honesty.

—Stephen Guerin, Motlow State Community College



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For writing to improve, instructors must first acknowledge and appreciate students' non-academic voices. Stellar instructors welcome new ideas, even if they are controversial, unformed, or contrary to their own. The more open the discourse, the more willing students are to engage. I'm privileged to help cultivate powerful, confident voices.

—Andrea Green, Motlow State Community College



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Blending growth mindset, creativity, and critical thought into the student experience motivates me to teach with a sense of purpose. Demonstrating my genuine care for my students empowers them to trust in their ability to drive their own learning, giving them tools to achieve their personal goals.

—Roxanne Evans, Motlow State Community College



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Our students inspire and motivate me. Using a flipped classroom format has helped me maximize their time on campus and encourage students to engage their peers in thoughtful analysis of learning objectives. This approach has increased retention of key concepts in a professional (and fun!) learning environment.

—Jason Glasnapp, Morgan Community College



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Being a teacher is like being a translator. Students understands things in their own language. Teachers must adapt teaching styles for every student to connect with all learners. This makes the invisible visible!

—Jeff Brandes, Mott Community College



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A sense inquiry, which is often lost after toddlerhood, is something that I try to reinvigorate in my students. I like to show them that things are not always as they seem and that we should always ask questions. This way, my students and I learn from each other.

—Bethany Arnold, Mountain Empire Community College



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In order to achieve outcomes greater than expected, we must collaborate in ways we have not before. This means reaching out across institutions, across states, and even beyond higher education itself. Especially in these times we must work together to solve any challenge we face.

—Steve Sosa, Mountain View College



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