

I am forever grateful for people who invested their time, effort, and resources into my life as a student. If it was not for them, then I may not be a college graduate. Reflecting on their contributions motivates me to continue to serve and invest in my students.

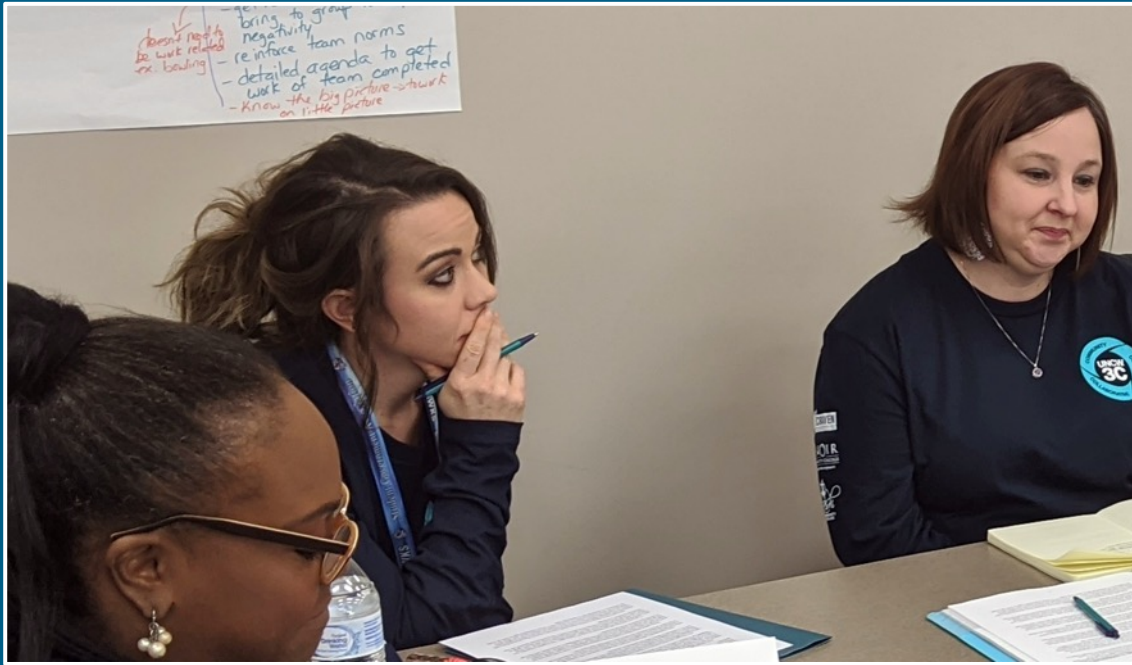
—Norman Cooper, Nash Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Be the employee that you would want to be there if you needed help. Showing compassion and understanding is never a sign of weakness; it shows that you care about more than just fulfilling the obligations of your job description.

—Morgan Roberson, Nash Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Watching our criminal justice students respond to the themes of ethics, compassion, community involvement, and professional competence makes me happier and more proud than anything else I have ever experienced.

—James Montgomery, National Park College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am humbled and honored by this award. There is no better use of our short time on earth than helping others with a servant-leadership heart. Everything I hope to do is to better serve humankind with a grateful heart. I love my community, and I love my college.

—Michelle Perry, New Mexico State University-Alamogordo



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

One day soon our students will be in the world handling our investments, giving us medical treatment, representing us in government. It is imperative that we provide them with the best education possible. This is not only in their best interest, but ours as well.

—Thomas McCrary, Northeast Lakeview College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My love for education motivated me to enroll in higher education and earn my MA, MS, and Ph.D in education and engineering. My belief that non-renewable knowledge becomes like stagnant water. I enrich myself and my students, which enables me to achieve my aspirations.

—Jamil Al-Nouman, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I have learned two things about leadership in education:
recognize the importance of relationships, and keep the student
at the center of every decision made. I will keep these simple
lessons close to my heart as I continue down my career path.

—Amber Nelms, Northeast Mississippi Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Preparing students for their futures is what motivates me most. I lead by example by exhibiting my artwork and being involved in the community through art. Students need to see practicing artists and the vast opportunities available to them.

—Brett Dyer, North Lake College



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—Monica Haralson, Northshore Technical Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Pushing beyond what students believe they are capable of makes me feel overjoyed. Rediscovering what they have known the whole while is a game-changer. In the words of Robert Frost, "I am not a teacher, but an awakener."

—Monica Haralson, Northshore Technical Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



This nomination has brought to light the positive effects I have made on students' lives. My new awareness of this is so energizing, humbling, and rewarding. I cannot thank my college enough for thinking me worthy of such a prestigious honor.

—David Galindo, Northwest Vista College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am inspired by seeing students succeed, by knowing that the innovation and creativity I bring to their way of learning helps them push through and persist. The struggles that they experience should be used to learn and be seen as badges of honor on their educational journey.

—Angela Cavazos, Northwest Vista College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Students learn best when they feel safe. When students enter my classroom, they are entering their home. Stereotypes and snarky comments are not welcome. As a result, students feel comfortable asking questions and learning from each other. Students master concepts simply because they feel safe in the class.

—Nadia Bakdash, Northwest Vista College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

As a first-generation college graduate, I am privileged to help many students navigate the challenges of balancing academics, family, and work. I am also in the unique position of creating study abroad opportunities for students. Being a small part of the transformation in the lives of my students is extremely rewarding.

—Lisa Dohm, Northwestern Michigan College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I love teaching and enjoy coming to work. I have been fortunate to have a job that is incredibly rewarding. I get to be in the classroom with students who push themselves to succeed, even when faced with adversity.

—Steven Rubert, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am honored to be recognized by NISOD for my service to the students of Palm Beach State College. Recognition of my service reflects the success of motivated and dedicated students who use my support and guidance to excel in their education and transform their lives for a better future.

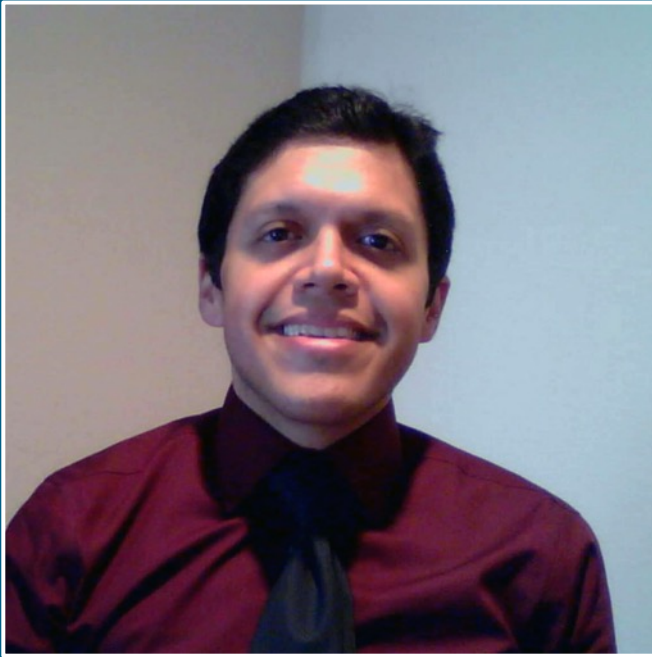
—Robin Fiedler, Palm Beach State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



It is an inspiration and a privilege to educate our student community on the significant historical events of human civilizations, understanding their culture, philosophy, and literature. By connecting their cultural similarities with the past, I hope it helps students think critically about the world around them.

—Alfredo Torres Jr. , Palo Alto College



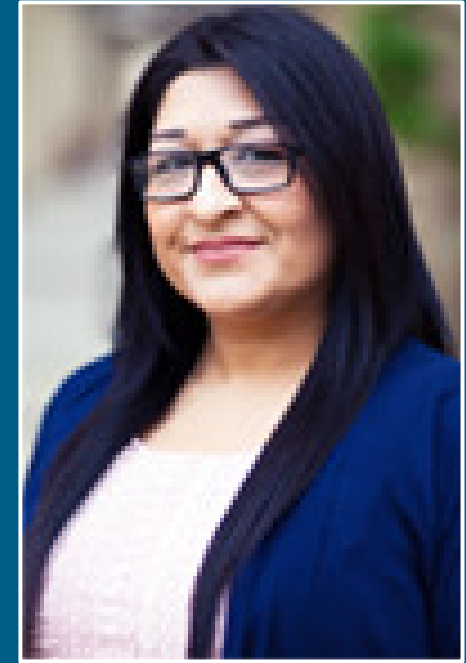
2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

For 15 years, I've had the pleasure of working with some amazing leaders and I am inspired everyday by them and the community atmosphere on my campus. Like our mission statement, "To inspire, empower, and educate our community for leadership and success," my drive for success is putting students first!

—Connie Acovio, Palo Alto College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I labor to build course material around relevance, how ethics relate to worldview, and how worldviews are expressed through pop culture and the arts. I also champion Socratic seminars, where students naturally sharpen their minds upon one another in organic dialogue. Students deeply appreciate relevance, interdisciplinary connection, and meaningful dialogue.

—Jeremy Scarbrough, Pasco-Hernando State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

In economics, the challenge is showing students that there are always subsequent consequences to every action, regardless of intent. Predicting those consequences can be fun when the class is in it together. The ultimate achievement is when the student says, "I'm changing my Facebook post!"

—Gloria Pray, Pasco-Hernando State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My Grants and Federal Programs office does not come into direct contact with students. However, knowing that the dollars secured to support programs help propel students to completion and jobs providing economic self-sufficiency for themselves and their families makes the late nights, weekends, and racing to meet deadlines all worth while.

—Deborah Douma, Pensacola State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

My greatest reward is seeing my students succeed, both in college and in life. There is nothing better than witnessing someone overcome their circumstances before your very eyes, and knowing you played a part in it.

—Andrew Barbero, Pensacola State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Across the history of humankind, people have used their skills of observation and interrogation to learn. I impress upon my students that it is not inherited intelligence, but the perseverance of individuals who refuse to stop pursuing their goals who will succeed in life.

—Lauren Rogers, Pensacola State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

So many of my students need someone to encourage them throughout their journey, and I am happy to be that person. When they are done with their degree, I get to be the first one to congratulate them and it motivates me to be there for the next student.

—Julie Humphrey, Phoenix College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Learning is a life-long endeavor that begins at birth. When we help people remove the things that get in the way of their learning, their lives open in amazing ways. Who they become touches everyone. It's always an honor and an adventure to accompany others on their journeys.

—Suzan Walsh Clemens, Pierpont Community and Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

As I enter each class, I want to figure out what will motivate my students, what strategies will catapult their success, and what words will fill them with wisdom and intelligence. In each class, I discover that to teach effectively, motivation, strategies, and words must change. And so must I!

—Lisa G. Rosa, Polk State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



In the classroom, I have had the opportunity to transform the lives of our students, challenging them to think critically and logically in their mathematics courses. As educators, we are not only empowering our students through education, but we are also impacting the larger community.

—Megan Cavanah, Polk State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I enjoy teaching a STEM course through the lens of social justice. Students explore how human anatomy and physiology respond to physical and social environments, including how this relates to health disparities. It is an honor to contribute to the educational journey of our future empathetic healthcare professionals.

—Elizabeth Rodrigues, Portland Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



We must make education accessible to every person who enters campus. We must then extend into the community to find students who have been pushed away from campus. We will know we have been successful only when our most vulnerable and invisible students trust we will hear their stories.

—Rakeem Washington, Portland Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

A community college where teaching is the focus provides students an on-ramp to a better life. Watching what some of my students have overcome to reach their goals has kept me teaching and working at a community college for 35 years. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

—Kenneth Dwyer, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Show your students the respect they deserve. Believe in them. Give them lots of opportunities to experience what success feels like, all while constantly but gently stretching them to do even better. Watching my students succeed is the best part of my job.

—James Brennan, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

It is my honor to work for Quinsigamond Community College and help students succeed in their education and future careers. Watching students develop their educational skills inspires me to motivate them. It is certainly a pleasure to work with them all.

—Maryann Kania, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Live the life you love! This has been my mantra. My love is teaching. I've taught at Quinsigamond for 48 years and was a public school teacher for 49 years. I've been devoted to the educational, mental, and social development of my students. I hope they live the life they love!

— Michael Veshia, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Get to know your students. Hear their stories, learn the beauty of their cultures, and engage them with meaningful learning experiences that connect academic content to their lives. With a critical approach to education, I put my passion for justice into action. Education is my resource for peace and change.

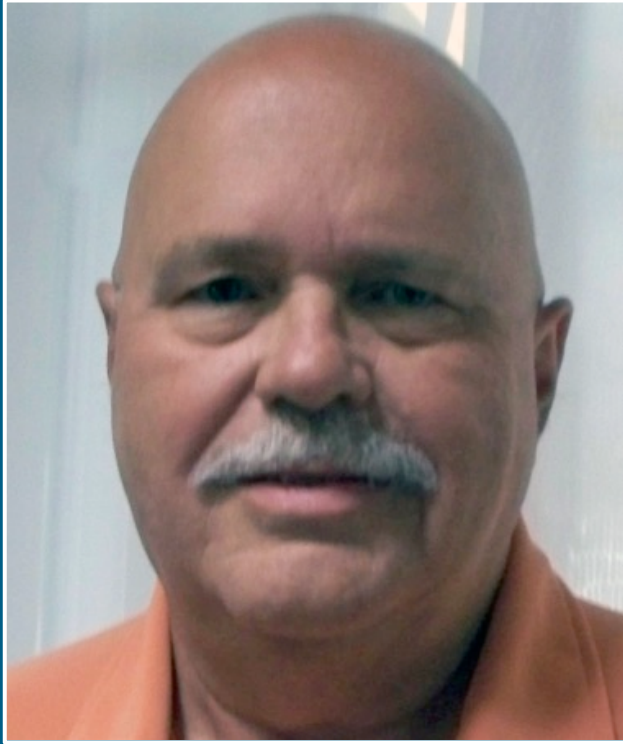
—Teresa Gonzalez, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am honored to have received this award and thank the person who submitted my name. It has been a pleasure working in the Advising Department and teaching as an adjunct in the Business and Technology Department.

—Robert Garceau, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Working with Gateway to College students is an amazing and inspiring experience. Our students overcome so many odds with determination, grit, and motivation. I am honored to be part of their journeys.

—Jenna Glazer, Quinsigamond Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Contributing to a culture of innovation, relentless improvement, teamwork, inclusiveness, diversity, and customer focus inspires me daily. I embrace the role of being a change agent and am motivated by the words of General Eric Shinseki, "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less."

—Earnestine Harrison, Rio Salado College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I think it is important to teach students some things that simply cannot be learned in a textbook. By sharing my experiences and counseling students throughout their educational career, the lessons learned can be invaluable. "The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows,"-Sidney J. Harris.

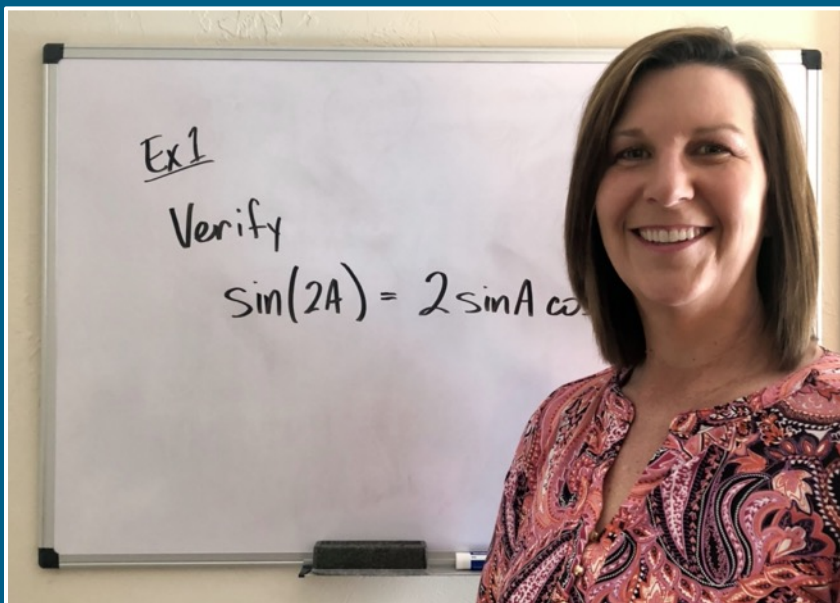
—Rebecca Knox, Rose State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My classes consist of students from varied backgrounds, skill levels, and learning styles, and I welcome the challenges they presents. With an awareness of this diversity, my students and I strive to create a supportive environment for learning and personal growth while embracing and celebrating differences.

—Andrea Xeriland, Rose State College



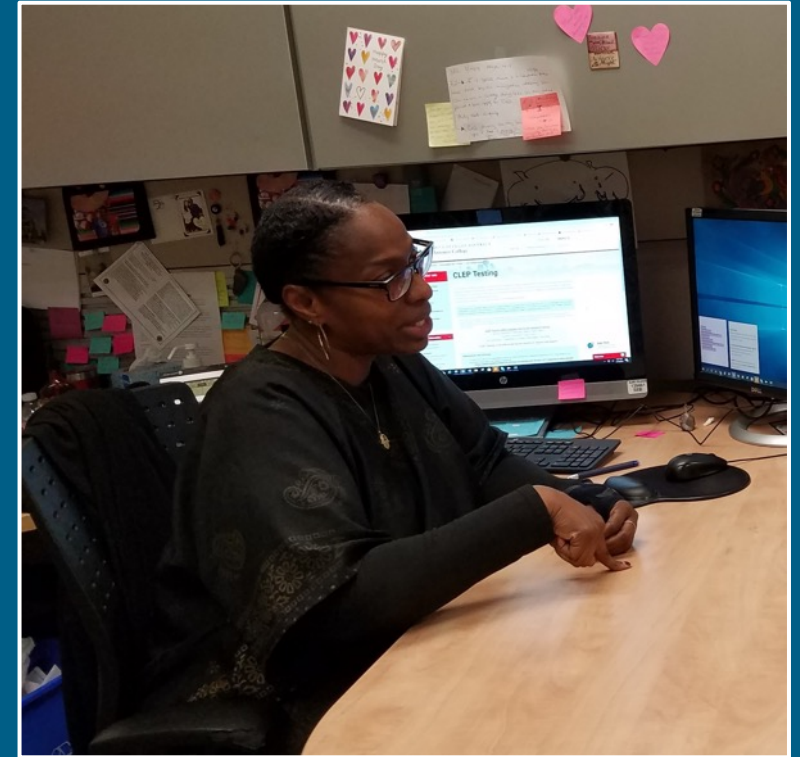
2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Providing specialized student support to international students can be challenging yet extremely rewarding. In the midst of the ever-changing immigration whirlwind, we continue to break down barriers and celebrate our cultural diversity while building community.

—Patrice L. Ballard, San Antonio College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Hope for a better future. That future was part of my upbringing, journey, and current position helping students achieve their educational goals. The goal of any educator is to keep hope alive for the purpose of weathering the bad days, and rejoicing in a student's accomplishments.

—Beatrice Canales, San Antonio College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am honored to serve our non-traditional students, and I believe we can help them reach their full potential through education. Once educated, every student will have access to better opportunities for themselves and their families. We have the privilege of being a part of the transformation of their lives!

—Bertha Castellanos, San Antonio College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am grateful to work on such a great team! It is exciting to see new opportunities created for students, but also to be able to provide training and consistency for faculty members so that students receive the best possible learning opportunities in the best possible environment.

—Linda Bridwell, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Working with faculty to improve instruction makes the college experience better for everyone. Students are willing and ready to learn. It is our job as educators to facilitate a connection with students and illustrate the purpose and value of the content to their lives.

—Regina Harrison, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



"Tell me and I will forget, show me and I may remember; involve me and I will understand."--Confucius. This has always been the backbone of my teaching.

—Phil Clark, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am inspired by the opportunity to provide memorable learning experiences to students by helping faculty create and teach exceptional courses. Our role is to inspire our students to embrace learning. "Inside of every great educator is a child that needed a better teacher." - J.R. Rivera

—Melissa VerSchage, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I love being a force in helping students make their dreams come true. Not only do we teach our students the disciplines they enroll in, we also help develop their growth mindset, persistence, project management, communication skills, and so many other life skills. This career is a gift.

—Lisa Young, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am most inspired when my students find an intense, yet unexpected interest in a topic. During these moments they take control of their own learning and go so much further than I could have imagined. To have a part in that process is amazing.

—Mark Barton, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Ben Johnson said, "Great teachers engineer learning experiences that put students in the driver's seat and then get out of the way." I believe it is my job to help students navigate the road they are on through support, guidance, and encouragement.

—Pat Serrano, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I love to teach because people inspire me. Education is where I meet new people with different needs. When I can help someone achieve their goals, I am winning. I always say do not be afraid to fail. Failure is where the learning magic happens.

—Sara Beakley-Mercill, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Being a teacher means being a lifelong learner. I am consistently inspired by my students to find effective ways to teach. Challenges and failures are opportunities to try new teaching approaches. My greatest achievement as a teacher is seeing my students succeed.

—Karryn Allen, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I want to thank our E-learning committee leaders and team for an outstanding effort! Go team!

—Sara Shuaib, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford. Working with this dynamic team to facilitate a seamless experience in the interest of student success resuscitated my desire to become the best nursing educator possible.

—Karen Hobbs, Scottsdale Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I'm inspired by my ancestors and Indigenous learners from across Turtle Island (North America), and am honored to be a mentor and witness for students during their learning journeys. I love working alongside colleagues as we create relevant, safe, and inspiring spaces, reflective of Indigenous values and cultures.

—Jessica Morin, Selkirk College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Sometimes people ask if teaching chemistry gets boring after three decades. But actually, my job is teaching students, in their infinite variety. Although I am proud to be able to convey my subject with clarity and enthusiasm, the greatest joy is watching my students grow in ability and confidence.

—Allyson Perrott, Selkirk College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I love teaching. It is so much more than just your discipline-specific material. It is the power and responsibility to help others develop critical thinking, unlock new talents, expand horizons and discover personal identity. In essence, to change the world.

—Dianna Campbell, Seminole State College of Florida



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Now more than ever we see the need for critical thinking and responsible media that reflect ALL points of view. Sharing these skills with students is what I love. Here's to preparing the future journalists, photographers, storytellers, and recorders of history.

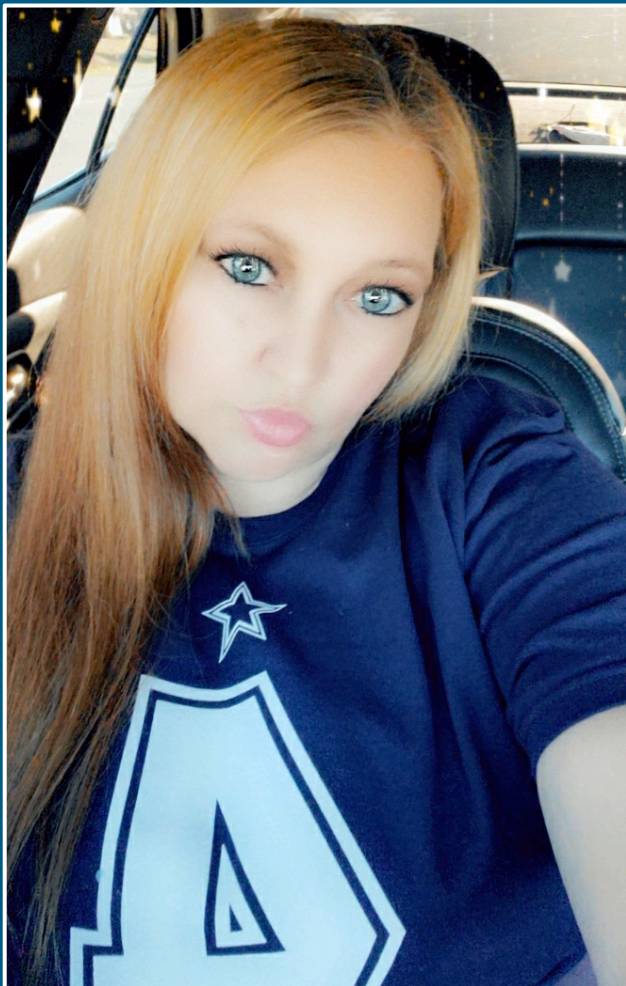
—Sue Sprenkle, Seward County Community College



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Brandy Sloan, Southeast Arkansas College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

This is my first year as an instructor and as the Director of Surgical Technology. My students are awesome, and they show me everyday why I'm blessed to be in the position that I am in. I enjoy seeing them excel. They do not know how proud they make me!

—Brandy Sloan, Southeast Arkansas College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Asking good questions and totally engaging students both in and out the office opens up so many doors to help them navigate various challenges. Being part of this journey makes me humbled to shake their hands on graduation day.

—Paul Scheeser, South Georgia State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

My goal is to help students have the same awesome college life experiences that I did as an undergraduate that led me to a career in Student Affairs!

—Sandra Adams, South Georgia State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am passionate about my craft and imparting the knowledge I gain from my experiences to my students. My job as an instructor is to share both what I have learned and what I am still learning, and to develop the creative minds of each student I encounter.

—Katherine LeRoy-Lawson, South Georgia State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Forming meaningful connections with students is essential to our mission. Be the smiling face they look forward to seeing. Be their catapult after a setback. Be their encouragement through rough times. Be there to celebrate their success as they meet their goals. Our students need more of that.

—Natalee Tyre, South Georgia State College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I understand the power of connection and the necessity of building strong student-teacher relationships and seeking to understand the minds and personalities of my students instead of seeking to be understood. I teach to inspire, encourage self-worth, erase self-doubt, and to foster greatness!

—Rasheeda McNeal, Southern Crescent Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

In my work, there exists an almost organic motion of gathering and sending out, of bringing students into a community and then helping them find the voice that will take them forward into their next community. That is the satisfaction that keeps me going.

—Pamela Horn, Southern Union State Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My goal for your learning: Instead of stuffing your heads with information to be tested on and forgotten in a year or two, I want you to think for yourself, observe, learn from others' experiences, and engage with the world outside your own bubble.

—Mary Hyatt, Spokane Falls Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

"With great power, comes great responsibility," says Uncle Ben to Peter Parker. A responsibility to help the community. The same goes for educators. Show students the tools and how to find them, use them, or invent them. Teach them to learn beyond you. Pass on the mantle. Be the hero.

—Chris Hansen, Spokane Falls Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My daily mantra: Don't quit. If being a full-time student is not possible, then stick with one class for each quarter. Students struggle because of finances and stress and it is not easy, but don't quit and don't give up. Just take it one class at a time.

—Enkhjargal Engels, Spokane Falls Community College



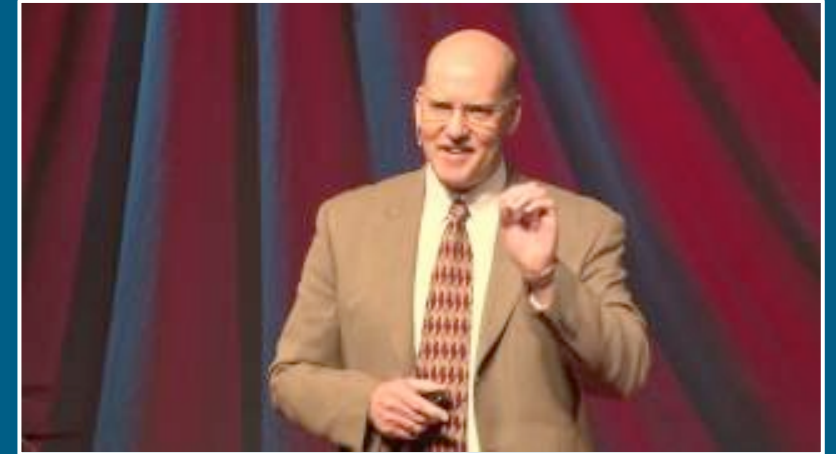
2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I think if we want to see a profile in courage, we need look no further than our classrooms. Many students who have been told they are not "college material" are there to learn and expand their opportunities in spite of every obstacle others have placed in their path.

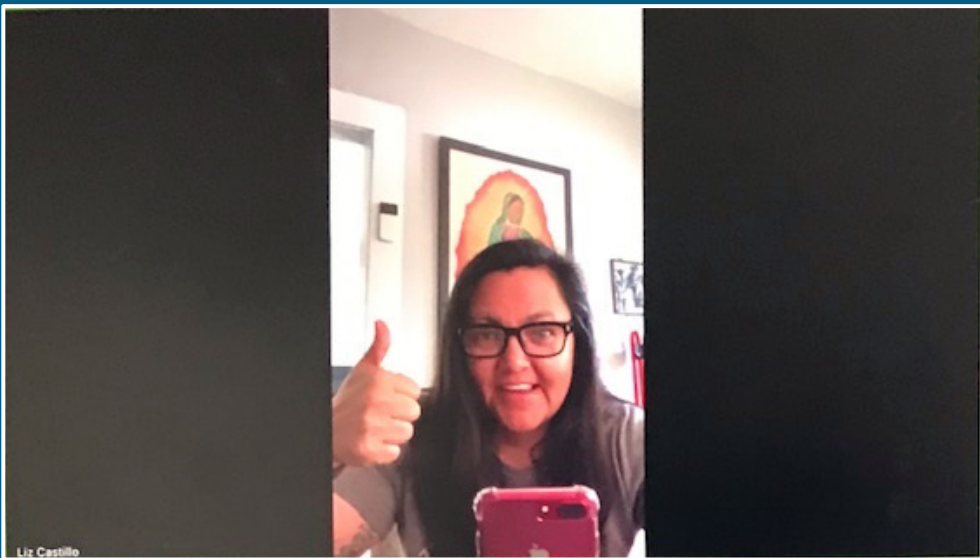
—Craig Rickett, Spokane Falls Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am inspired by all of the students who overcome so many barriers to get their education. Our students are so resilient! I am motivated to give back and help students just like my mentors helped me.

—Elizabeth Castillo, St. Philip's College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

"A person is a person, no matter how small."--Dr. Seuss. As an early childhood educator, I strive to help children learn developmental skills by getting them excited to explore new things. I provide them with hands-on learning experiences that give them a lifelong love of learning.

—Bibiana Yanes, St. Philip's College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Whether we are returning a shopping cart at the grocery store or holding the door open for someone walking into the welcome center at my college, we are here to serve others. One life changed creates a tsunami of change for our communities.

—Christina Cortez, St. Philip's College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I wanted my MBA to mean something. Helping students is not just what's in my job description, it's my passion! If I can be the difference in whether or not a student worries less just by taking a few minutes to listen, then it's all worth it!

—Marlo Miller, Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I am truly blessed to be able to do what I love each and every day. Being able to mentor our students and help them to become the best possible human services professionals is an honor and a privilege.

—Kara Finch, Stanly Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Born and raised in Tacoma, WA, nothing inspires me more than serving at our local community college. I am deeply committed to social and racial justice; it's an honor to be a part of this work and a privilege to be a part of the educational journey of our brilliant students.

—Kimberly Flack, Tacoma Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Working as a counselor allows me the opportunity to learn about what motivates students, who they care about, what challenges they face, and how they triumph over obstacles. Valuing each individual's authentic experiences can ultimately guide us in supporting educational journeys and the transformation of each student's life.

—Nigeria Bell, Tacoma Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

When I arrived in America as an immigrant, my father told me I needed to set a goal that was clear and well-defined to pursue my career path in a field that I liked, and to draw a clear roadmap that would guide me through a life I'd enjoy and adore.

—Iyad Alaqrabawi, Tacoma Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I see my role as being a resource for faculty and students. I try to make sure that our policies, procedures, curriculum, and educational resources are the best they can be so that our nursing students have a high-quality learning environment that leads to success.

—Tracey Cooper, Temple College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Each student has their own unique story. I encourage them to live the following quote: "If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse."- Ryan Blair. Making sure their educational path is truly important to them is the key.

—Sara Solis, Temple College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I think getting students to think historically is essential. If students understand how people in the past dealt with issues and problems humanity has faced, they will be better equipped to solve future problems they may encounter in the world. An informed public is a better public.

— Gene Rhea Tucker, Temple College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Investing in our young people and experiencing their accomplishments, beside them, is the greatest joy! Years later, you will hear from a former student and you know you made a difference. They simply say, "Thank you for believing in me when I did not!" Mission accomplished.

—Julie Long, Texarkana College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Working as a human rights advocate documenting violations in and outside the United States, I searched for answers of how to end such abuse and suffering. Finally, a hopeful conclusion emerged that education and critical thinking can cause a ripple effect of good that can slowly transform sad realities.

—Eloy Garcia, Texas Southmost College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



My team inspires me every day with their dedication to helping students overcome obstacles and achieve their education and career goals. My primary focus is to listen, support, and remove barriers for the faculty on my team, so they can continue being excellent.

—Terra Alvarado, Texas State Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

I am here to inspire young professionals, that they may see the potential in themselves and create the future of our industry.

—Nelson Adams, Texas State Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I believe in continued learning and am always looking for ways to challenge myself in the classroom with different content, different resources, different strategies, and different technologies. I try to be open to change and flexible with what comes my way.

—Carly Kahl, Texas State Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

An Excellence Award? What an honor! However, I'm lucky to be a part of a talented team of individuals that believe in TSTC's mission. I learn from them every day.

—Shelli Scherwitz, Texas State Technical College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



I strive to meet students where they are and help them achieve more than they ever thought possible. Education can open doors and minds to worlds never dreamed of. As an instructor, I have the tremendous responsibility and privilege to help students transform their lives for the better.

—Amanda Ritter-Maggio, University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020

Student success is achieved by the way we educate, inspire, and support our students. Students should have an environment where they feel accepted and meaningful. I am inspired by the students I interact with as so many have overcome financial and personal obstacles to attend college.

—Jennifer Luffman, Vance-Granville Community College



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



#NISOD2020



Building relationships is the cornerstone to teaching. This is when the real work happens: When we support, encourage, and challenge students from the first day of class through that moment they earn the first position they've worked so hard to accomplish. This is why we exist!

—Tammy Ball, Vance-Granville Community College



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Nursing school is not about classes and passing. It is about the patient, life. You must understand the “how” and “why” of what you are doing. When the light comes on, you see it in the students' eyes, that "ah ha" moment. There is nothing else like it.

—Mary Rivard, Vernon College



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Helping students apply material to their lives and witnessing positive impacts in their personal and professional lives motivates me. I believe communication is important for everyone, no matter where they come from or where they are going, and I work to empower and engage students to believe that, too.

—Traci Rowe, Wake Technical Community College



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The classroom should be a safe place where questions, ideas, cooperation, and collaboration are encouraged. Instructors should impart mindfulness, acceptance, tolerance, understanding, and compassion to all. Through learning, information deposited into the mind creates floors for stability and stairs that rise to success!

—Estelle Alston, Wake Technical Community College



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There's nothing more satisfying to an educator than seeing students soar. I have the privilege of putting tools and information in the hands of creative thinkers, supporting them in connecting concepts, and collaborating with them to solve design challenges. Their success fuels my passion for lifelong learning.

—Julie Evans, Wake Technical Community College



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College is an opportunity for students to reimagine who they might become. It starts in the classroom. When students say they had always hated reading until they had my class, I know they are on the path to a brighter future because they are seeing themselves with new eyes.

—Karen Morris, Wallace State Community College



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I take great pride in assisting students as they navigate their pathway. The opportunity to collaborate with students as they reach their goals and enhance not only their lives, but the lives of upcoming generations, is very rewarding. Every day is an extraordinary experience as students discover their strengths, develop new skills, and accomplish their goals.

—Jennifer McRea, Wallace State Community College



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You may think you are the most knowledgeable expert in the world in your field, but without passion, it means nothing to the learner. A student of mine once said, "Nobody cares what you know until they know that you care." Engage, motivate and inspire!

—Mark Stigler, Waukesha County Technical College



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Being part of a student's decision to change the course of his or her life and career by beginning or continuing education is a privilege. I am encouraged by students who overcome various challenges and obstacles to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. Their success is my success.

—Erin LeGrand, Wayne Community College



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As a practicing attorney, I am frequently asked, "Why do you teach?" The simple truth is I absolutely love it. I strive to show students that my instructional motto is simple: "It is my desire as an instructor to help you succeed."

—TaQuita Hogan-Claiborne, Wharton County Junior College



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Carl Rogers said, "We think we listen, but very rarely do we listen with real understanding and true empathy." Listening to our students is the leading force within the classroom. It allows openness to understanding and change. The classroom is a practice field for the real world. Go practice.

—Jess Comstock, Western Iowa Tech Community College



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Being an instructor is an honor that I cherish. Creating both a safe and a brave space for learning is my job. I aim to facilitate learning in multiple directions in the classroom. We are all learners, and we are all teachers, sharing, supporting and growing together.

—Faith Whiting, Yukon College



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