



Congratulations

2014 NISOD Excellence Awards Recipients



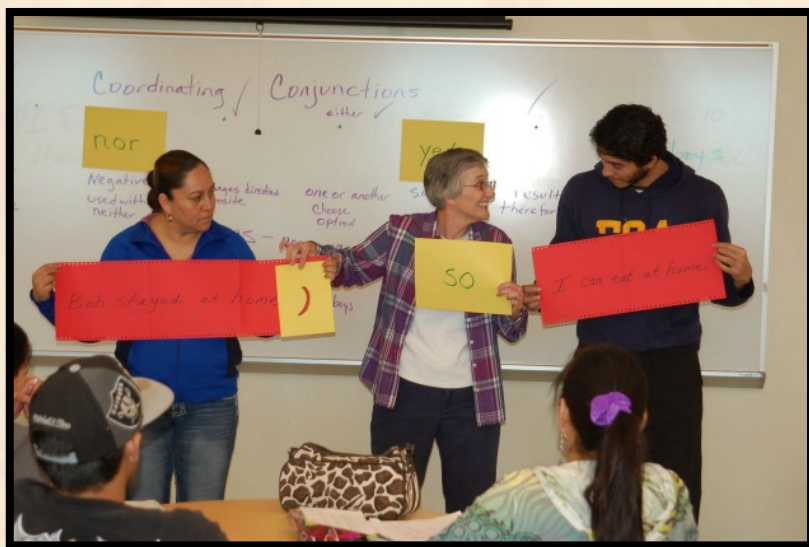
Not all students are enthusiastic when learning parts of a cell or differences between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. They need something that grabs their interest. I do it with stories. As a science journalist, I have many. They create memory tags and the students remember the stories and those tags.

—Myrna Watanabe, Naugatuck Valley Community College (CT)



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Deep down we share a foundational belief that teaching is an important job, and that learning and education make a difference; that education makes a better person, a better worker and a better citizen. Winning the Outstanding Faculty award makes me more committed every day to be a better teacher.

—Terry Holloman
New Mexico Junior College (NM)



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Teaching isn't simply presenting a group of facts to students to be regurgitated back in papers and tests, subsequently forgotten the minute the semester has concluded. Teaching is providing students with an understanding of how that information affects them or will affect them so to inspire them to make the information part of their permanent knowledge base.

—Roene Neu

New Mexico Junior College (NM)



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—Felicia Cantwell, New Mexico State University—Carlsbad (NM)



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My objective is to assist students in achieving their personal and career goals. This is difficult in a community college setting where we have students with a wide range of abilities from underprepared for college to high academic achievers. Students are guided through our curriculum while achieving the learner outcomes of the course.

—Anna Kniebel

North Hennepin Community College (MN)



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I work hard to be accommodating and creative in how I give my students (classroom and online) individualized attention and support. By learning personal details about my students, I feel this helps create a bond with me so that when they need help, they are comfortable to ask for it.

—Pat Corbett-Labatt
North Island College (BC)



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“Any human anywhere will blossom in a hundred unexpected talents and capacities simply by being given the opportunity...” (Doris Lessing). I’m privileged to be on this journey with my students and colleagues, bringing our knowledge and experience together into a collaboration that shapes how we travel together.

—Laurie Fisher
North Island College (BC)



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Linton Weeks said, “In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim” That is a massive promise, which both inspires and challenges, making it deeply satisfying when one can add a new tool to a patron’s treasure box of life skills.

—Diane Newman, North Island College (BC)



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“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of other” (Pericles). In the classroom I find the best of humanity: open-mindedness, intellectual curiosity, camaraderie. After years of teaching, it remains a privilege to walk into that setting each day.

—Lisa Altomari
North Shore Community College (MA)



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Hearing a student speak about how he thought college was only for people on TV! That blew my mind and made me realize that many others do not know they have options. That is what drives me—advising people about what is available and encouraging them to achieve their goals.

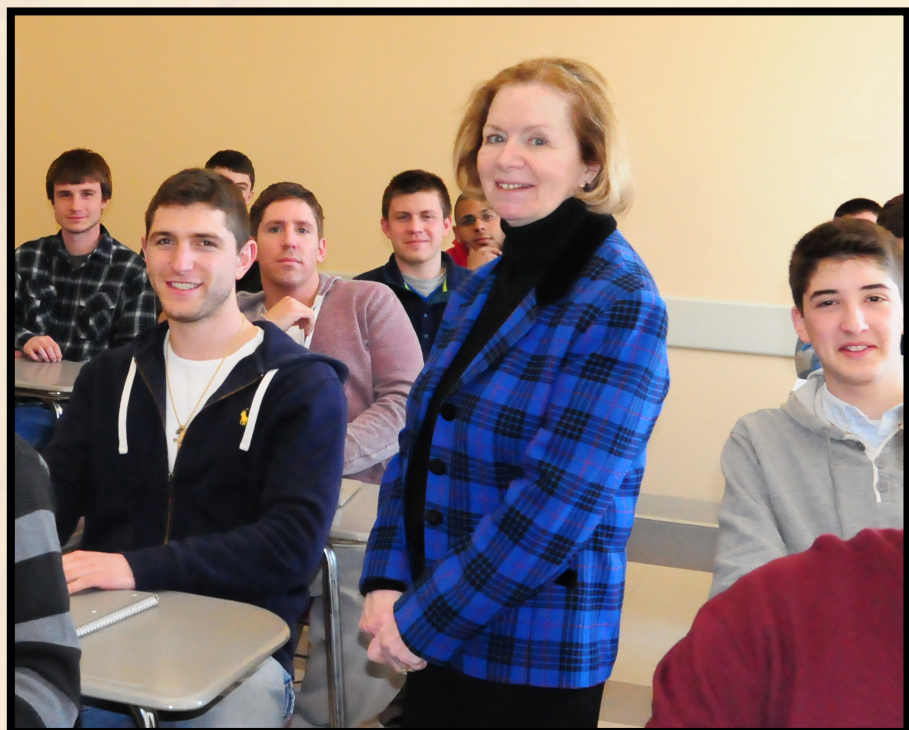
—Patricia McManus

North Shore Community College (MA)



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As Greek philosopher, Plutarch, once said, “the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”

Knowing that I can help ignite the flames of knowledge for students continues to be my motivation for teaching at a community college. My students are always my inspiration.

—Marybeth Nelson

North Shore Community College (MA)



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What I love about community colleges is uniting different people embracing education. Working with special programs, I am energized helping vulnerable middle school students realize positive futures, nonprofits educate their workforce, urban youth conduct research on urban issues, and people with disabilities access college to pursue their hopes and dreams.

—Cynthia O'Donnell

North Shore Community College (MA)



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Instructing students to move to a higher level of academics isn't always sufficient. Having high expectations, inspiring students to excel, and providing individual assistance leads students to a professionalism they did not expect. Through their community college successes, students realize they can manage any challenge.

—Rebecca Kamm

Northeast Iowa Community College (IA)



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As an educator, I am inspired by the students who come into my respiratory care program each and every day. Many of these students have overcome several obstacles to attend college and more specifically get into a health care program. Their hard work, dedication to their coursework, and their motivation to obtain a better life continues to inspire me to give them the best of my teaching passion. When they graduate and walk across that stage, it is humbling to hear the stories of how this education has changed their lives. To be a part of this transformation is truly a gift.

—Amy Rausch, Northeast Iowa Community College (IA)



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I believe that I must actively seek knowledge to keep current not only in my field, but also in the various methods used by tech-savvy teachers. I learn an enormous amount from my students in and out of the classroom, and love the thrill of constantly learning.

—Laura Houston

Northeast Lakeview College (TX)



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Every one of my students brings their life experience into the classroom. This adds inestimable value to the richness of our experiences as we travel the road to business careers and better lives. As a life-long learner, my quest and privilege to share the experience of learning never ends.

—Patricia Morrow

Northern Essex Community College (MA)



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I would rather talk about the issue than lecture about the science! We learn best when we are vested in a topic. So, I stopped teaching science about five years ago and started talking about our vision of a preferred future and how to get there.

—Marcy Yeager, Northern Essex Community College (MA)



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Teaching mathematics is immensely exciting to me. The challenge of discovering ways to help students learn the material can be difficult, although, observing a student as they reach an understanding of a concept provides me with the joy that is intended to be part of being an educator.

—Christi Hook, Northern Oklahoma College (OK)



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My greatest reward in teaching is seeing students transform from uncertainty and tentative interest in a field to confidence and excitement that come from the skills they've gained and the investment of their efforts. Hopefully my investments in students prepare them to solve even bigger problems in the future.

—Sarah Olson

Northern Oklahoma College (OK)



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I aspire to promote excellence in the nursing healthcare field by preparing future nurses to be safe and effective, compassionate health care providers. I believe it is prudent to simplify nursing concepts using mnemonics and audiovisual aids. An injection of humor is as effective as any technique I have used.

—Judith Whitmore, Northern Oklahoma College (OK)



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Some say education is teaching students where all the signs are, how to read them, apply them, and then do what they say. That is not education. Education is teaching students how to find the signs, take them down, examine them, and see if they're worth putting back up again.

—Robert Bausch

Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



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I am inspired by the hospitality students I teach in class representing more than 300 countries of diversity. It is truly breathtaking to see them take their education so seriously and to see every opportunity I afford them through the ever-changing study of hospitality management.

—DeQuan Smith

Northern Virginia Community College (VA)



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I was very fortunate to have had some of the best teachers since elementary all the way through college. I was fascinated by their passion for their subject and their desire to share this passion with their students. This is what I do as a teacher. I love math!

—Juan Silva

Northwest Vista College (TX)



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—Brian Stout, Northwest Vista College (TX)



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I think part of my students' success relates to my interest in meeting them where they're at cognitively and physically. I work to make sure that my students understand the material and can apply it to their own lives. I will meet with them off campus if need be.

—Melissa Wright
Northwest Vista College (TX)



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—Melissa Wright, Northwest Vista College (TX)



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Learning is a path we walk, in class or on committee. While we strive for insight, the path is uneven: we wander, get stuck, puzzle through, fall back, inch forward. I'm inspired to walk with my students and colleagues. Learning happens not in spite of stumbling, but because of it.

—Judy Chu

Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



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Teaching is about relationships, and what we all want in any relationship is to be taken seriously. When we respect our students' time, when we consider their ideas seriously, teachers lay the foundation for relationships that foster serious learning.

—Janet Lively

Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



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The greatest reward of my work comes from showing students how the study of philosophy can significantly impact one's life. My teaching philosophy begins with the principle that the quality of one's life is determined by the quality of one's thinking; as a result, my teaching obligation extends beyond merely sharing my knowledge with students, it aims at penetrating and enlightening students' mind.

—Melisa McCormick
Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



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I am motivated by student success. I truly believe that if you put most of the learning responsibility in students' laps, they will rise to the challenge and exceed your expectations. Believe in your students and they will start to believe in themselves.

—Nicholas Roster

Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



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Students are my inspiration. Skits, roleplaying, and presentations, I see them all excelling in some way. A recent Mechanical Engineering student wrote, "You are an amazing instructor. I respect how hard you work for your students, and I hope you never lose the enthusiasm you demonstrated while instructing us."

—Karen Riley, SAIT Polytechnic (AB)



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To me teaching is like a crazy, scary, exhilarating, and challenging rollercoaster ride with ups and downs, rapid turns, and always leaving me with the feeling of wanting more, doing better, and helping students achieve greater goals in life and career. I hope the ride never ends.

—Rolf Runkel, SAIT Polytechnic (AB)



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The real excellence is in the students who work in our Writing and Reading Center. In working with their peers to explain difficult concepts, I see these students beginning to understand the great things that happen through teaching. And I see them walk away from those encounters saying how fulfilling it is to help and how much they also learn.

—Megan Ward

Northwestern Michigan College (MI)



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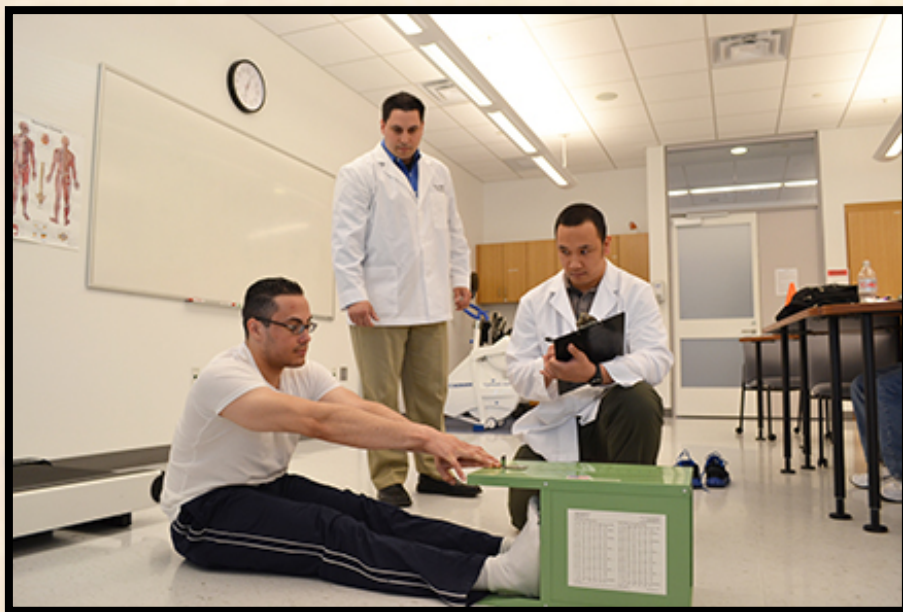


Meet each student where they are in their educational journey. Set the destination. Travel with them where you want them to go and they never expected to reach. They will surprise you and themselves when they arrive, and in many cases chart a course for new educational explorations.

—Rosalia Geloso Barone
Norwalk Community College (CT)



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Knowledge is useless unless shared. I am a product of my mentor's knowledge as my students are a product of mine. The fact that I work to prepare future leaders in the discipline of Exercise Science motivates me to provide a quality learning environment that nurtures academic growth.

—Paul Gallo

Norwalk Community College (CT)



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RANDY ANDERSON
PROFESSOR OF GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

—Randy Anderson, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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ANGELA COTNER
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

—Angela Cotner, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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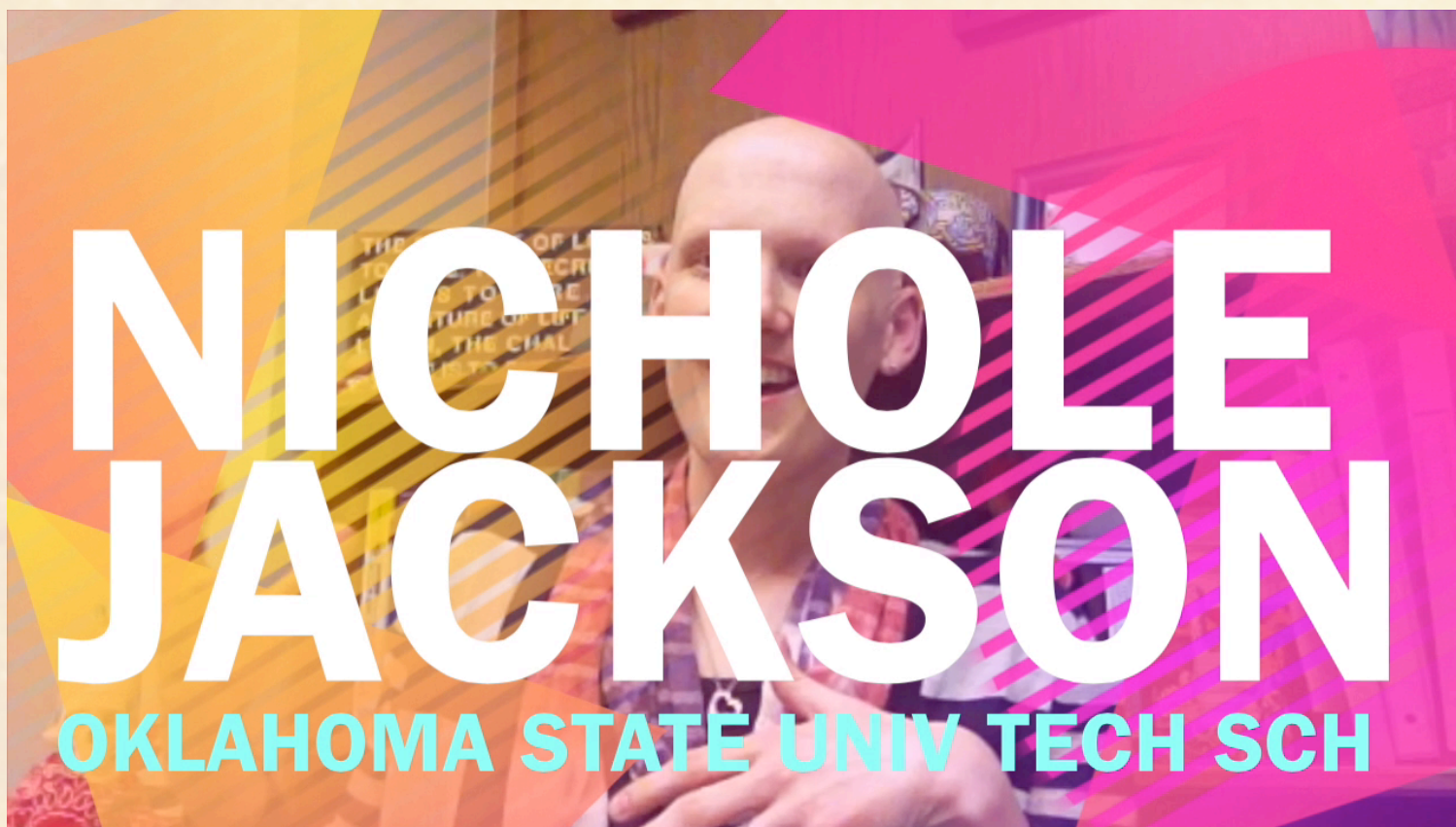


ALBERT HEITKAMPER
PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE/CYBER SECURITY

—Albert Heitkamper, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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—Nichole Jackson, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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If I had to choose one thing that inspires me in my work as an educator, I honestly have to say it is my students. Seeing students succeed is one of the most rewarding and motivational things an educator can encounter. Their enthusiasm and commitment to learning are truly invigorating.

—Nichole Jackson, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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JENEAN JONES
PROFESSOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TECH

—Jenean Jones, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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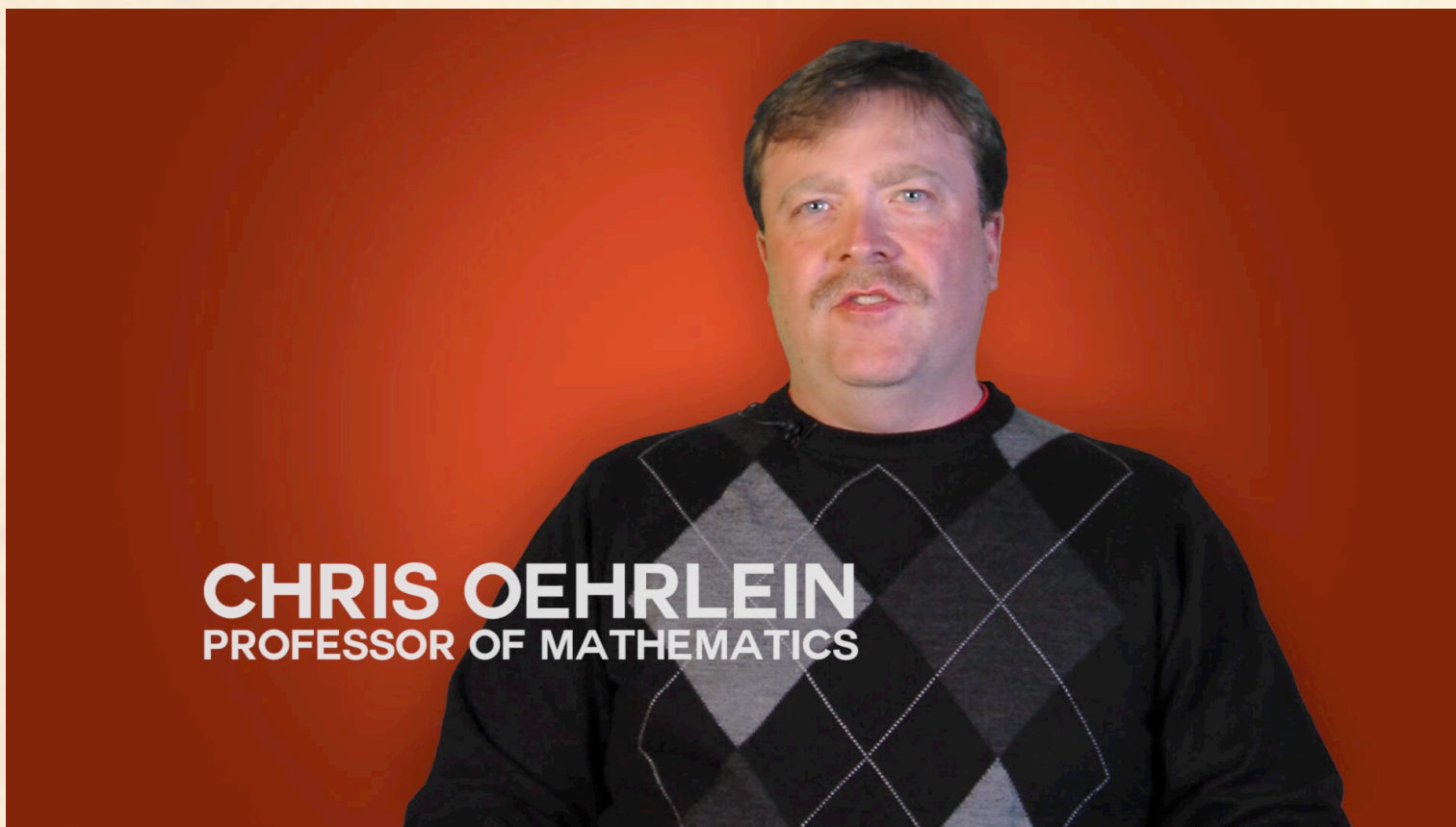


—Cindy Milam, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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CHRIS OEHRLEIN
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

—Christopher Oehrlein, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OK)



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I am inspired by my students on a regular basis, many of whom face and overcome incredible challenges. I work to make the course content applicable to their lives, using their own observations and experiences to connect with theological and philosophical concepts.

—Deborah Thompson, Ozarks Technical Community College (MO)



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Students do not see life through your lens, they see it through theirs. Know your students. Get right in there! The only way to reach each student is to do it from within the classroom, not in front of it. Remember, they may know something you don't. ANCORA IMPARO!

—Tracy Ciucci, Palm Beach State College (FL)



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From the students perspective, higher education should not only be about learning, it should also be about experiencing. Learning is about the digestion of information, and although important experiences make up a life well lived. Being a part of students' lives is a great honor that comes with great responsibility.

—Paul Friedman, Palm Beach State College (FL)



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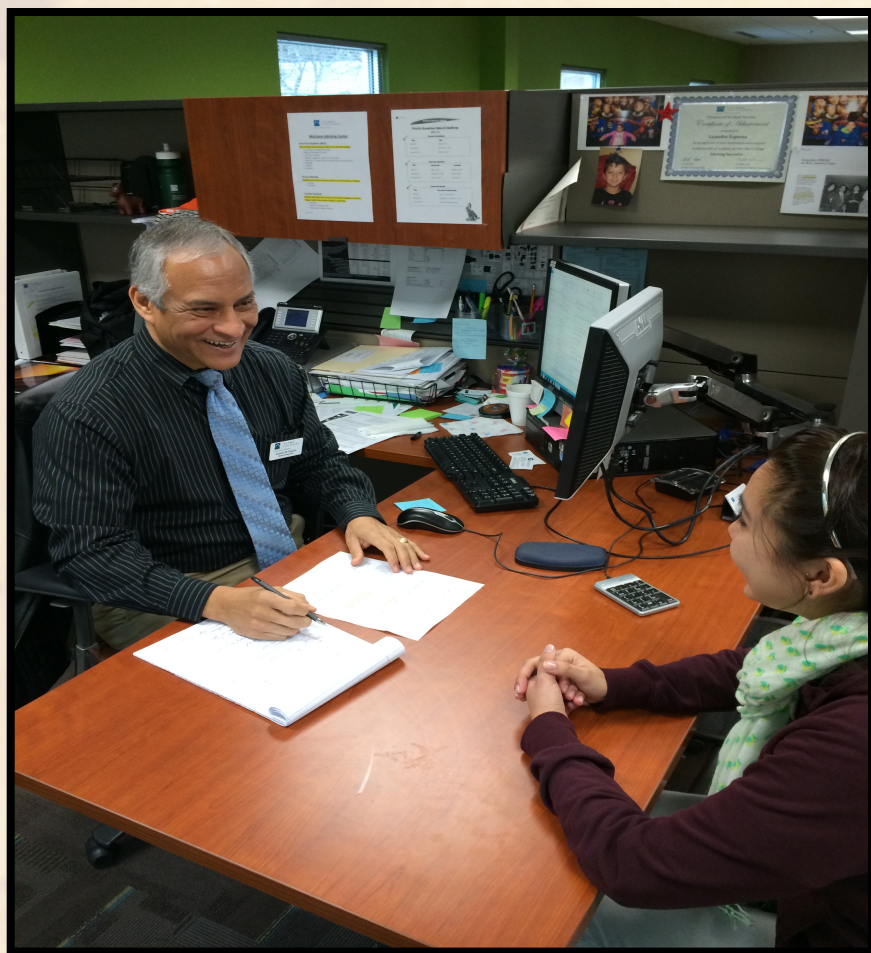
My students' aspirations and desire to achieve, often given impetus by the hopes and dreams of their families, are the source of my inspiration as an instructor. Their belief that I have something of value to impart to them elicits the best I have to offer them as a learner and as a teacher.

—Carol Christopher, Palo Alto College (TX)



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—Leandro Esparza
Palo Alto College (TX)



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My favorite hobby is fishing, and to be a successful I must understand specific elements: climate, weather, lures, baits, water temperate, depth, patience, and most of all, the ability to make adjustments. As an educator, there is no difference. I must still understand the elements of higher education and what it will take to create student success.

—Michael Ximenez, Palo Alto College (TX)



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One aspiration is to help dental hygiene students develop a sense of social responsibility and sensitivity to persons of another culture or socioeconomic status. Students should observe solutions and see faculty model a willingness to go the extra mile in providing care to those who can least obtain it.

—Peggy Boyce, Parkland College (IL)



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I am so blessed to teach in a computer lab/classroom. Using various technologies as productive teaching aids, I equip and encourage my students through laborious lessons. I have the joy of watching their transformation from terrified students into a confident scholars. Encouragement costs nothing to give, but is priceless to receive.

—Shirley Cherry

Pasco-Hernando State College (FL)



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I want to inspire in my students a lifetime love of learning. I hope they walk away from my class thirstily seeking out knowledge and reveling in the simple joy of learning. And, just perhaps, they learned a little Spanish along the way.

—Amber Carey, Pensacola State College (FL)



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As an art educator, I strive to impart my enthusiasm for learning into my teaching strategy. I stress the investigation of new concepts without the fear of failure because it is only then that students will take chances and allow for experimentation that leads to innovation.

—Kristen Regan, Pensacola State College (FL)



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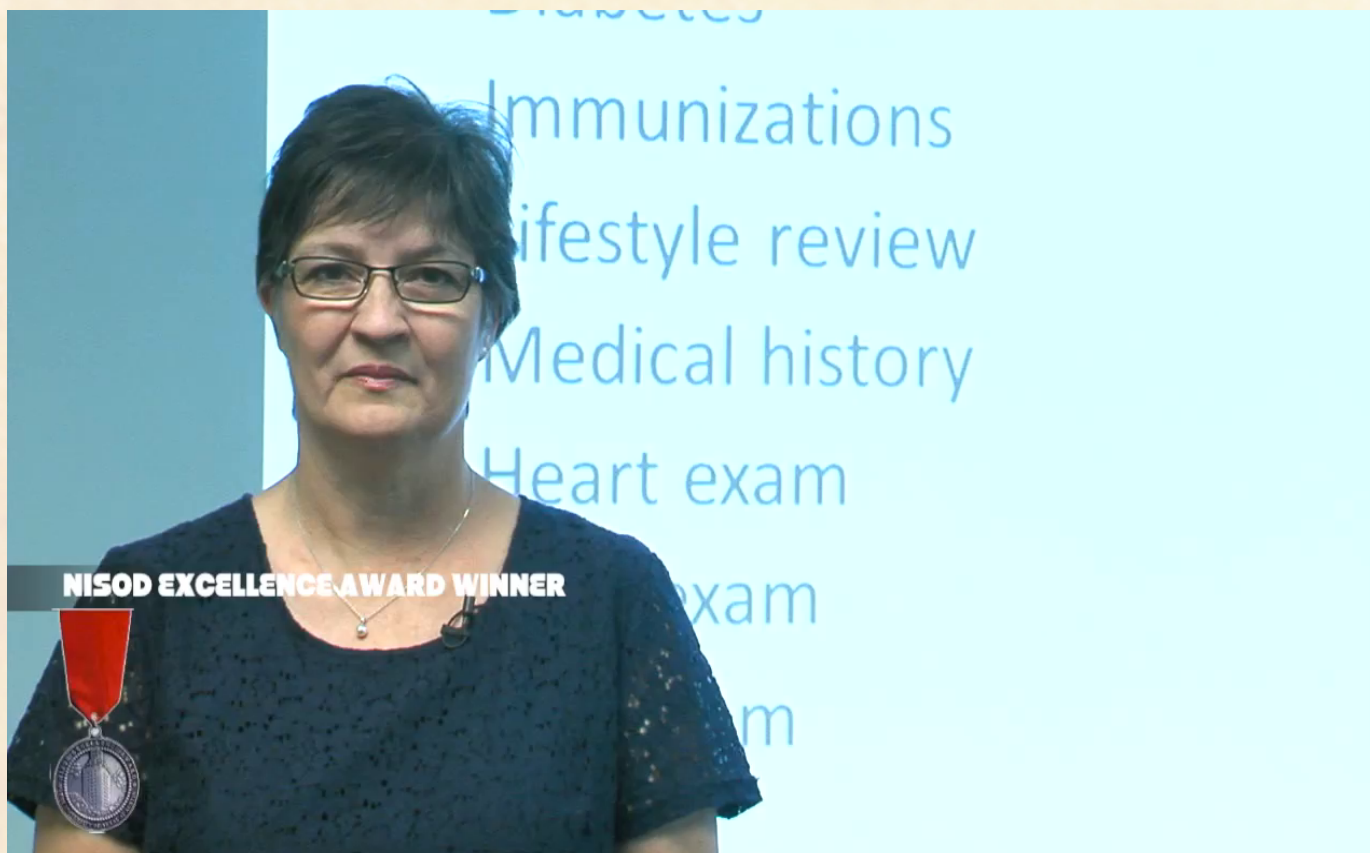
Teaching Spanish Medical Interpretation for the Bilingual Nursing program gives me the opportunity to help bilingual students improve their Spanish. As nurses, they will be better prepared to meet the health care needs of the Latino community because they are bi-literate and fully able to function professionally in both languages!

—Maria Enciso, Phoenix College (AZ)



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—Maria Enciso, Phoenix College (AZ)



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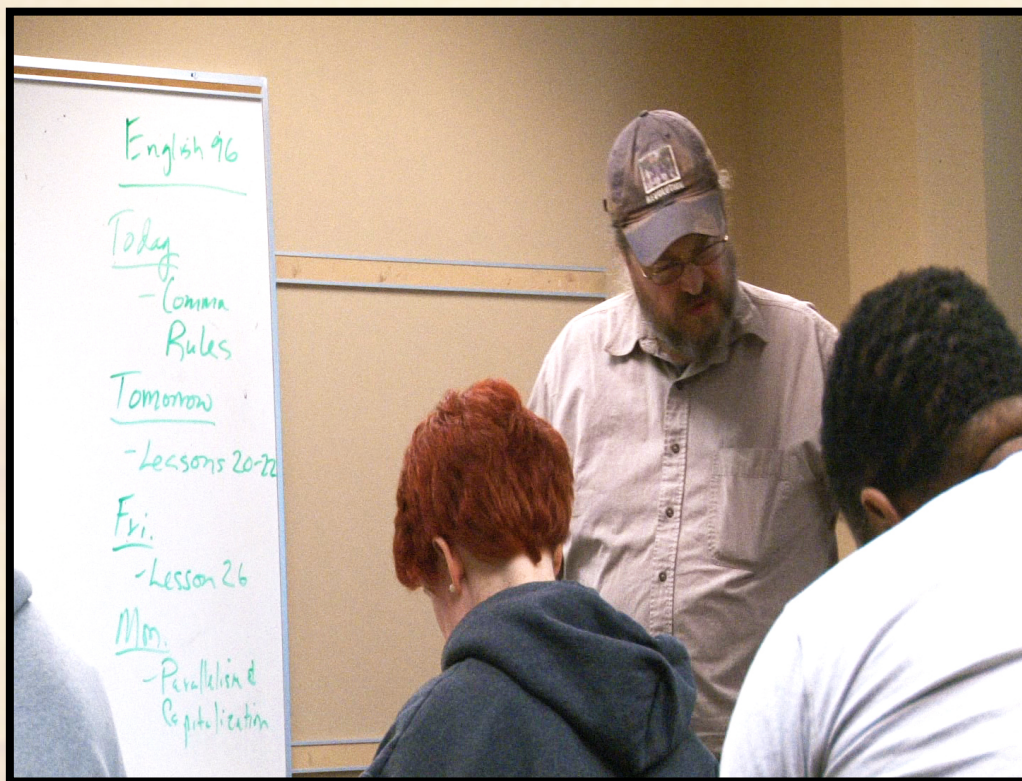


—Beth Stevens, Pierce College District (WA)



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—Curt Warmington, Pierce College District (WA)



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Student success is a priority for my office. Providing students with the skills and knowledge to be prepared to enter the workforce or to take the next step in their education takes a hands-on approach, personal interest, and involvement. I love when the confidence, passion, and "aha" moments arrive.

—Leslie Lovett, Pierpont Community and Technical College (WV)



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Every client and project is unique, yet have many common goals met through the design process. Teaching the applied process is essential for students entering the design industries. Working together with my students, we move towards graduation with a clearer understanding of applying time, talent, and education to become successful professionals.

—Rachel Plybon-Beach, Pierpont Community and Technical College (WV)



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—Ruth-Ann Larish, Pikes Peak Community College (CO)



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Supporting our students is what motivates me. Each semester, I employ three students in my department, providing them with opportunities to develop real-world technology skills. That is the key to being a student-centered institution, and my work at Pima allows me to help the institution achieve that worthy goal.

—Kevin Milton

Pima Community College (AZ)



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I am inspired and motivated to see students who enter their clinical internships fearful and timid to return strong and confident students ready to learn more. It's an honor to teach them the knowledge, skills, and leadership to change their lives and the lives of the patients they serve.

—Shannon Ryals, Polk State College (FL)



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One of the reasons I wanted to work at QCC was because the experiences of many of the students reminded me of my own journey in higher education. I believe that education is a powerful tool, and that as an educator, I can inspire others to think big and understand their true potential. Our students are parents, employees, and spouses, but still find time to be active in their own learning process. Seeing them excel, grow, and develop as students and lifelong learners is one of my biggest motivators.

—Amarildo Barbosa

Quinsigamond Community College (MA)



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Math is difficult and abstract for many of my students. I try to make it real, something they can visualize and understand. My favorite classes are those that are application based where students can put into practice what they are learning

—Robert Parker

Rappahannock Community College (VA)



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Many developmental mathematics students come in with low self esteem and an attitude and belief of, "I have never been good at this and I never will be!" My joy is to see that attitude turned around as they learn to believe in their own abilities. Watching the process of that transformation is what renews and sustains me.

—Barbara Branum, Richland College (TX)



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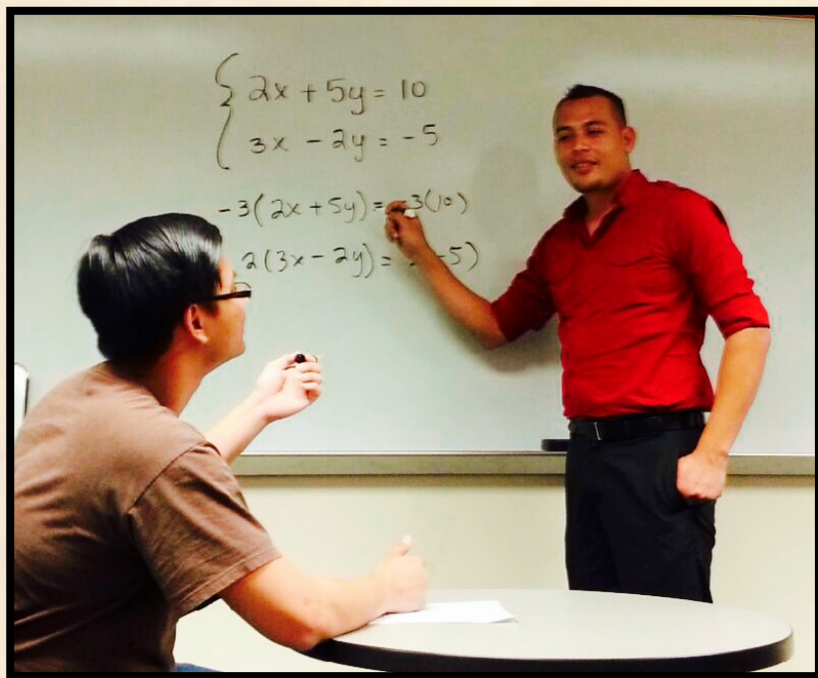
I strive to find new and exciting ways to reduce or remove students' math anxiety. Once a student loses their math anxiety, the door to their mind is open to allow the understanding of mathematics to take place.

—Patricia Ellens, Richland College (TX)



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Every day is unique, and making a difference in students' lives is rewarding. I am excited to be able to provide a positive learning environment conducive to learning. Seeing students' attitudes shift from fear to confidence makes a difference in my everyday life. I want to continue to be a role model for students, shine their paths, provide them with useful tools, and offer them hope that a brighter future awaits.

—Jaime Hurtado, Richland College (TX)



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Teaching is a way to give back. I have a strong desire and passion to help my students get ahead in life so I teach them the academic and the realities of business. They need to be able to leave my class and immediately put to use the skills and information they learned. When they can do that I know I have succeeded.

—Chip Izard, Richland College (TX)



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Be dynamic in your delivery of knowledge! Sharing new discoveries while preparing the current lesson shows the lifelong learning we all experience. Our students' experiences can create amazing lecture sessions filled with enthusiasm and passion. Our passion is the fuel that our students need to drive their futures forward.

—Wade Anderson, SAIT Polytechnic (AB)



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My philosophy of teaching is, "We're all in this together."
My success and my students' success are the same thing.
Once we agree in what direction that success lies, we can
move towards it together. My job is to point the
direction, clear the path, and provide whatever assistance
I can.

—Mike Harcourt, SAIT Polytechnic (AB)



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I am constantly inspired by the creativity and dreams of my students, always striving to nurture and develop them as artists, technicians, and entrepreneurs. Spending time on their film sets in a hands-on environment with continual encouragement and feedback motivates them to reach their full potential.

—Philip Letourneau
SAIT Polytechnic (AB)



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One of my ESL students arrived in the U.S., ordered a burger, and got a botched order. Convinced his poor English was the cause, he said nothing. He vowed to make the most of his time in our program. He got his next order right, and I got a powerful lesson in motivation.

—Michele Gaston
San Antonio College (TX)



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—Michele Gaston, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Gwyn Hagenbuch, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Gwyn Hagenbuch, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Casey Lechuga, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Tammy Perez, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Vanessa Torres, San Antonio College (TX)



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I gain such personal and professional satisfaction from watching and helping students achieve their goals. My inspiration and motivation come from seeing their excitement when they overcome difficult hurdles in their lives, complete their requirements, and fill out their graduation paperwork. There is no feeling as fulfilling as that.

—Tammy Perez, San Antonio College (TX)



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—Dean Gooch, Santa Rosa Junior College (CA)



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Teaching is a two-way street. Every semester, I look forward to sharing my expertise in physics with my students, as well as learning from their experiences in and out of the classroom.

—Paul Holody, Schoolcraft College (MI)



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At its fundamental core, "successful teaching" is (1) loving your subject matter and (2) sharing that love with your students. I don't understand how anyone could thrive in this profession otherwise. After all, if you aren't passionate about your subject matter, how could you ever expect your students to be?

—Andrea Nofz, Schoolcraft College (MI)



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I have the great opportunity and responsibility to help my students move one step closer to their goals and career aspirations. By teaching them new skills and concepts, I get to be a small part of their journey into the future.

—Michael Konkin, Selkirk College (BC)



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—Elizabeth Lund, Selkirk College (BC)



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—Rob Schwarzer, Selkirk College (BC)



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When TESOL students struggle with lesson planning, I offer what governs mine—"breathe in, breathe out." Students can only take in so much before they must express, ask, discover, and generate new ideas. Teachers can only give out so much before they need to listen, embolden, and be inspired.

—Joan Silvey, Selkirk College (BC)



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Since I was little I wanted to be a trapeze artist. Gravity and physics worked against me so I became a college professor. It is the same thing. A high-flying act full of adventure, danger, and a constant learning curve. I love it, and I still work for peanuts.

—Laura Dickinson

Seminole State College of Florida (FL)



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The desire to learn, not the obligation, is what leads us to become lifelong learners. Students need to see and experience mathematics as an enriching, powerful, and relevant discipline, as opposed to an irrelevant and impassible gateway halting their life goal. Thinking critically and independently empowers them to become productive citizens that meet the needs of society. It is my mission to provide students with the mathematical understanding needed to become successful students and productive citizens.

—Eden Donahou

Seminole State College of Florida (FL)



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At the age of 18, I knew that one day I would make a career of teaching. It took me nearly 40 years to accomplish my dream. For the past 14 years I have had the pleasure of teaching at Seminole State College. My students range in age from 25 to 50+ years of age. These students have been an absolute joy to teach. They have been in the business world. They value the importance of an education, as well as the importance of a four-year degree in fulfilling their career aspirations. I have accomplished my dream!

—Thomas Walker

Seminole State College of Florida (FL)



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“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness” (William Arthur Ward). Whether it is a student, faculty, or community member that I work with each day, my attitude and smile is a reflection of Seward County Community College/ Area Technical School.

—Terri Barnes, Seward County Community College/Area Technical School (KS)



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—Jennifer Parks, South Arkansas Community College (AR)



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I believe education is the key to a better life. No matter what your goals may be, time spent developing your mind is never wasted. I share with my students that learning is a fundamental part of life itself, not just something we do while in class.

—Lorinda Shumard
South Florida State College (FL)



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The reward of teaching is witnessing a student reach the pinnacle of understanding and applying the content outside the classroom. The challenge of teaching is guiding each student to find the best path for them to get there, and encouraging those who are struggling and out of breath to keep climbing.

—Stephen Hustedde, South Mountain Community College (AZ)



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—Stephen Hustedde, South Mountain Community College (AZ)



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Allison Parker

English, Developmental Education, Women's Studies Faculty



—Allison Parker, South Mountain Community College (AZ)



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Dawn Penich-Thacker
English Faculty



—Dawn Penich-Thacker, South Mountain Community College (AZ)



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—Liz Strongman, South Seattle Community College (WA)



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Because of the support, encouragement, and attitudes of my family, I always felt I had the potential to become anything I could dream. As a leader and an educator, I am motivated to help others feel that same sense of empowerment as, well as to encourage them to transform themselves into the best possible versions of themselves.

—Lydia Bean, South Texas College (TX)



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My passion lies in providing educational opportunities in the healthcare profession that result in improving the quality of life for my students, their families and members of the community. I believe that the key to achieving greatness is acquiring the ability to inspire others in fulfilling their passion as well.

—Crystal Bird, South Texas College (TX)



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Students' mastery of course content and achievement of the objectives must be fully assessed by faculty using basic Occupational Therapy educational tenets—be hands-on when working with adult learners and use their multiple intelligences and contextual learning, while engaging them in active learning tasks during all educational activities.

—Esperanza Brattin, South Texas College (TX)



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To awaken my students' curiosity in learning is not only my satisfaction, but also my responsibility as an English educator. I enjoy putting my students through unfamiliar situations to evoke in them a sense of wonder. The result, their thoughts in writing.

—Angelica Cerda, South Texas College (TX)



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After a long career in human resources, I decided to teach in order to help prepare the next generation of HR professionals. Greatest move I ever made! As I started teaching, I made a commitment to nourish, empower, and guide my students to reach their educational and professional goals.
—Francisco Gomez, South Texas College (TX)



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I am privileged to have the opportunity to assist students in discovering their true potential as future educators. I enjoy providing authentic learning experiences that help them think critically as they develop their own teaching philosophies and discover more about their future students. I am continuously inspired as I watch them on their journey towards becoming extraordinary educators.

—Ana Riojas, South Texas College (TX)



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I believe teaching in higher education to be inspiring and rewarding. As it has been said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” My motivation is to impart knowledge and skills to students to make a difference with their chosen career path.

—Ana Valladarez, South Texas College (TX)



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—Ana Valladarez, South Texas College (TX)



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As a psychology and lifespan instructor, I emphasize that everyone develops socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively throughout the lifespan. To help students develop cognitively, I must first relate with them to build a relationship that will help develop their academic success. Relationships become the fabric of our lives.
—Jan Burchfield, Southwest Texas Junior College (TX)



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I measure my success by the success of my students. As my teaching experience has grown throughout the years, students have informed me that because of taking my courses, they have become successful in the criminal justice field. Comments like that inspire me to instruct to my fullest every day.

—Jesus Suarez, Southwest Texas Junior College (TX)



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Students' excitement and energy remind me of what makes my job rewarding. Student success is the greatest motivator to me. One of the most gratifying events is graduation as students reflect on the obstacles they have overcome. Their joy brings true delight in being part of their educational endeavors.

—Dionne Cook, Southwest Virginia Community College (VA)



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William Butler Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." It is my fire for learning that drives my passion to nurture the fire in others. I am humbled by the opportunity to work in a field that allows this connection.

—Melissa Stiltner

Southwest Virginia Community College (VA)



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—Paul Borrego, St. Philip's College (TX)



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Love for education and love for learners is essential. One way of expressing this love is by understanding cultural differences. In some cultures, students are taught to not look into the teachers eyes when talking. Understanding this characteristic, one is qualified to know that the student is respectful, not defiant.

—Cynthia Cortez, St. Philip's College (TX)



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I embrace teaching and learning as an opportunity to inspire and empower. Helping students realize that college is a possibility and raising funds to assist them is what drives me. A person's strength can be fully recognized when they allow education to empower them to walk in their passion.

—Sharon Crockett-Bell, St. Philip's College (TX)



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As a healthcare education facilitator, my mission is to provide future healthcare professionals with realistic training scenarios that develop their technical abilities along with compassion and understanding for the patients they care for, and to promote public awareness of healthcare through education and community outreach.

—Ricardo Lopez, St. Philip's College (TX)



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Galileo Galilei once said, "You cannot teach people anything! We can only help them discover it within themselves." It brings me tremendous pleasure to be part of my students' journey to self-discovery.

—Terri Murphy-Sanchez
St. Philip's College (TX)



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It's all about the people. My college captured my heart a long time ago, and I fell in love with the students and the people I worked with. Because of that love, I've always just wanted to do my best and work hard for all of them. It's important to the people, their stories, and their lives.

—Karen Armstrong

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (FL)



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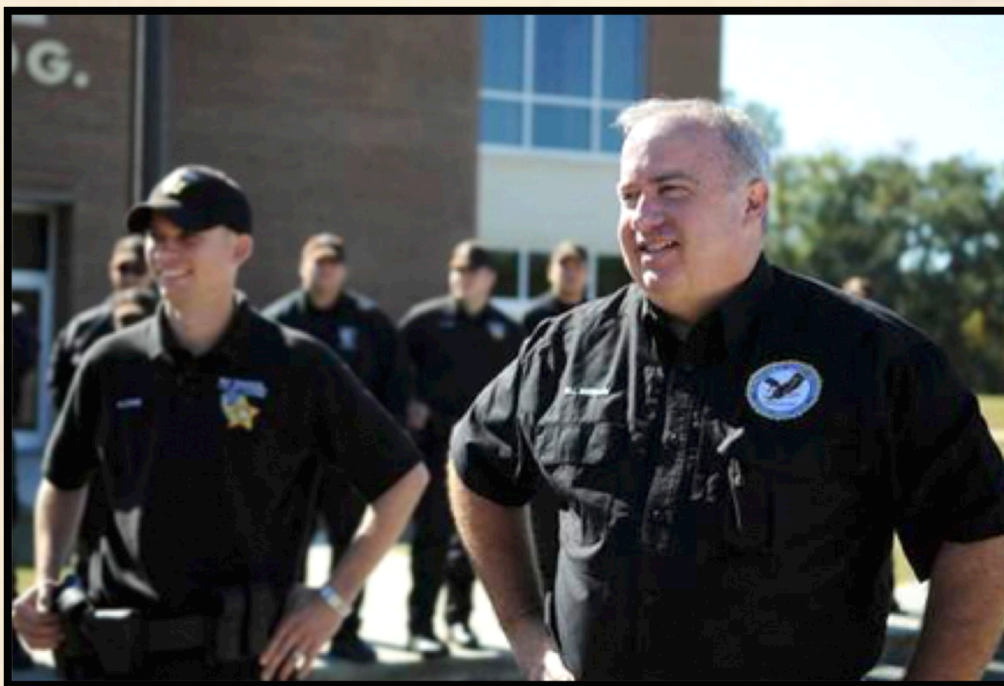
Through my experience as a Registered Nurse and growth as an educator in the bachelor's and associate nursing program at State College of Florida, I work towards putting the “puzzle” pieces together for the students (i.e., how one nursing intervention can benefit one body system or organ while negatively affecting another body system or organ). I encourage students to look at the “whole picture.”

—Debra Marr, State College of Florida,
Manatee-Sarasota (FL)



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—Bill Bierbaum, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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—Jennifer Bradley, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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—Stephanie Breedlove, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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—Carol Chenoweth, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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—Brian Kupfer, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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—Patrick McDermott, Tallahassee Community College (FL)



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Students come to our classrooms with surprisingly little knowledge about their own existence. The joy in teaching these students biology comes not only when they learn about the complexity of their cells and bodies, but also when they start to realize the connectedness of life. That moment of awe is inspiring.

—Kristin Byrd

Tarrant County College District (TX)



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Working with the students to guide them in developing technical skills in the area of Robotics and Automation is a privilege and honor. Our goal is to prepare students for employment or pursuit of higher education. Students returning with success stories encourages us to work even harder for those still learning.

—Thomas Hart, Tarrant County College District (TX)



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It is a joy and a motivation when students that were afraid to take your Chemistry class let you know they enjoyed your course, learned a lot, are now motivated to take more science courses, and have a better understanding of chemicals they are using at home.

—Shelli Hull, Tarrant County College District (TX)



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Successful instructors exemplify sincerity, enthusiasm, and passion for the material being presented and the students they teach.

—Carol Hunsberger
Tarrant County College District (TX)



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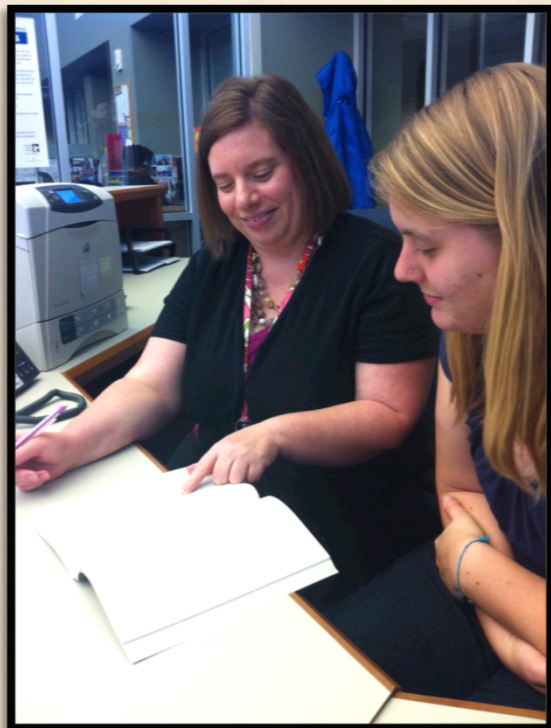


—Nancy Kupper
Tarrant County College District (TX)



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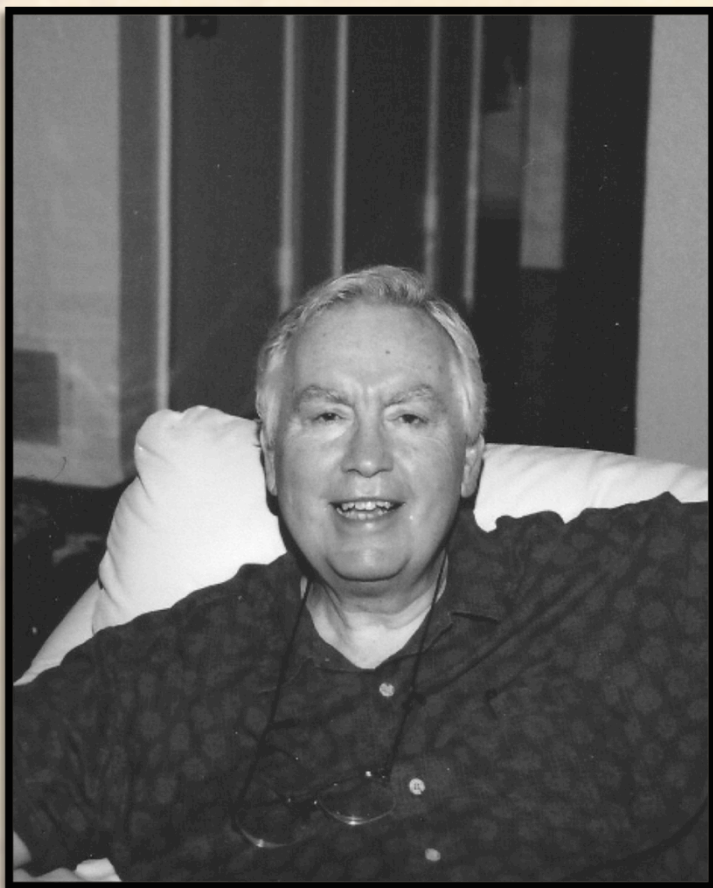


Most of my developmental education courses are full of “first-time-in-college” students who come from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and choices in life. My students motivate me every day to help them become more than just successful college students, but also successful thinkers, learners, and decision makers.
—Nancy McKenzie, Tarrant County College District (TX)



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—Ludwig Otto
Tarrant County College District (TX)



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—Jaye Simpson
Tarrant County College District (TX)



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Students at Tarrant County College have unique opportunities to grow academically and personally. With the Trinity River nearby, students can challenge themselves mentally and physically through kayaking, paddle boarding and wakeboarding. I have the luxury of helping students try new activities, improve their wellness, and have fun at the same time.

—Jason Wooten

Tarrant County College District (TX)



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Teaching is more than arriving to class and disseminating knowledge. Teaching is about engaging, reaching, preparing, and guiding students to examine the subject and apply knowledge to their lives. Everyone learns and grows when teaching moves off of the whiteboard and becomes an active part of each class period.
—Joanna Scott, Temple College (TX)



Congratulations

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At the core of my philosophy is developing courses that lead to student success through active learning. I achieve this through enthusiasm, clear communication, and creating a classroom environment that is technologically similar to students' everyday lives.

—John Stevens, Temple College (TX)



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Excellence in education is necessary in order to succeed in training the future workforce of the nation. We are leaders, mentors, and success coaches for our students. Supporting and leading faculty to meet this goal is my professional mission. The opportunity to change lives through positive learning experiences is incredible! Demonstrate what is desired in the classroom. We are "IT" first!

—Ronda Dozier, Texarkana College (TX)



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Ronda Dozier

—Ronda Dozier, Texarkana College (TX)



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Since the mind is where ideas grow, we might think of it as a garden. If it's not nurtured, it will wither and die. Educators are all gardeners. But our ability to tend to our students depends on how well we have tended to ourselves.

—Phyllis Gardner, Texarkana College (TX)



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—Phyllis Gardner, Texarkana College (TX)



Congratulations

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Our students deserve the very best of our facilities, modern college spaces and innovative centers of educational interests. These are my reasons for believing in making a difference through campus development. It has been my pleasure to participate in construction projects, interior renovations, and building upgrades that enhance TSTC's learning environment for all.

—Ruben Abarca, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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Excellence is reached when one strives to overachieve when mediocrity is acceptable, never being satisfied with anything less than obtaining the highest goals that have been set while maintaining the strongest level of integrity.

—Jay Burks, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

2014 NISOD Excellence Awards Recipients

I consider myself an encourager for our students. We change people's lives here at TSTC, and we bring our students hope of a better future. Our students should be our business and we should be their cheerleaders. I will continue to show kindness, listen, and be supportive of our students.

—Melissa Curtis, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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As Executive Assistant to the President, I serve in a supporting role assuring that the President has the time to lead the college in all facets, which includes implementation of programs needed for future students to obtain skills required by our Texas workforce. I also serve as the liaison to students who come to the President's Office with concerns. My role is to provide high-quality customer service to these students to help them resolve their concerns so they can again focus on their educational goals.

—Sharon Farias, Texas State Technical College (TX)



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Do not settle for the status quo. Go the extra mile in everything that you do. Excellence is a culture of achieving results in everything you do. True excellence is not achieved by individuals, and is only realized when an entire organization is excellent.

—Ray Fried, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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Excellence is the ability to get the overall team to work towards the same positive goal for students to have a safe and comfortable place to live as they pursue their education at TSTC. With the renovations on some of the properties on campus, this is and will continue to be a positive step towards having nice housing for students at TSTC.

—Paul Garcia, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

2014 NISOD Excellence Awards Recipients

My passion is to build a trusting relationship with my faculty and students, a trust that will benefit us now and into the future. This trust enables us to be the example for our students, and help them build and maintain the integrity and self control required to be successful. With these character traits and the real-world technical skills we as a group provide, we deliver the best opportunity for students to successfully gain and retain employment in today's marketplace.

—Randy Haley, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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I take great pride in promoting the TSTC value of stewardship. When students make informed decisions about their finances, I know I had a role in their long-term future, as well as that of TSTC. I see this specifically with those student who have chosen to reduce their loan debt.

—Mayra Juarez, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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During my 17 years at Texas State Technical College serving as a Department Chairman and this past year as a Division Director, I never miss a chance to advise students on integrity, empathy, and solid work ethics. These qualities were instilled in me by watching my father, a World War II veteran who worked three jobs to provide for our family. If you possess these qualities and you apply them, there is nothing you can't do. The most rewarding part of my job is witnessing our graduates employed in the field applying their technical skills and the above-mentioned qualities, along with informing me they want to further their education to better their lives.

—Jean Lashbrook, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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Although External Relations is removed from daily interaction with students, the knowledge that TSTC changes lives spawns an internal push toward excellence. Ensuring that TSTC's story is ever before policymakers affords a tiny role in each changed life, and perhaps, in the next generation, a rare gift I take seriously.

—Marlene McMichael, Texas State Technical College (TX)



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Excellence is something we live and breathe. It is constantly striving for success. In education, excellence is the inspiration to perform a task, the knowledge to present the material, and the ability to inspire students to learn. I teach excellence by adjusting to students' needs in a timely fashion.

—Angel Newhart, Texas State Technical College (TX)



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There is no single experience more professionally rewarding than the process of assisting a student from square one who otherwise has no knowledge of the career preparation process, and watching them follow a customized career plan that culminates in a great job offer. It always makes my day.

—Edgar Padilla, Texas State Technical College (TX)



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Whether it's a simple sandwich buffet or a five-course presidential dinner, we strive for excellence in all we create. We're proud to showcase the talents of our faculty, staff, and students. Our entire culinary arts department strives for excellence and is honored by this award.

—Mark Schneider, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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Excellence to me simply means doing your best. My parents taught me that no matter what job you have, you do it to the best of your ability. Here at TSTC, the standard of excellence is a team effort made easier by co-workers who are also doing their very best.

—Susan Stone, Texas State Technical College (TX)



Congratulations

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The contributions adult learners bring to the classroom are remarkable. Many possess a tapestry of knowledge that stimulates inquiry while promoting a comfortable learning environment. Acknowledging their individual contributions allows connections to be made between prior learning and new content. In doing so, they are part of the process and help maintain all our energy.

—Jim Coates, Triton College (IL)



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Start every class with music! Upbeat, foot stomping music. Connect your students to the content of the course, each other, and the world around them and wait to be amazed.

—Peggy Murnighan, Triton College (IL)



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Teaching at Triton College offers a range of diversity that brings a unique dimension to the classroom and the environment as a whole. Everyday I teach and mentor students, but I also learn from all the cultural differences and non-traditional experiences the students and community bring to me.

—Mary Ann Olson, Triton College (IL)



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I am often amazed by the courage and tenacity of our students. Their lives are so full, yet they find their way to us and depend on us to help them meet their educational goals. What an honor it is to be part of such important service to my community.
—Pat Zinga, Triton College (IL)



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On my office wall is a quote from Albert Einstein. "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." It's there to remind me that I have the good fortune to work with great spirits and I must avoid being the mediocre mind.

—Jim New, Truckee Meadows
Community College (NV)



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There is purpose in pursuing your passion. I've always challenged students to look beyond the dollars and cents to find their passion, and to pursue that with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. Investing in the lives of the leaders of tomorrow is a privilege that I am thankful for every day.

—Jonathan Groth, Tyler Junior College (TX)



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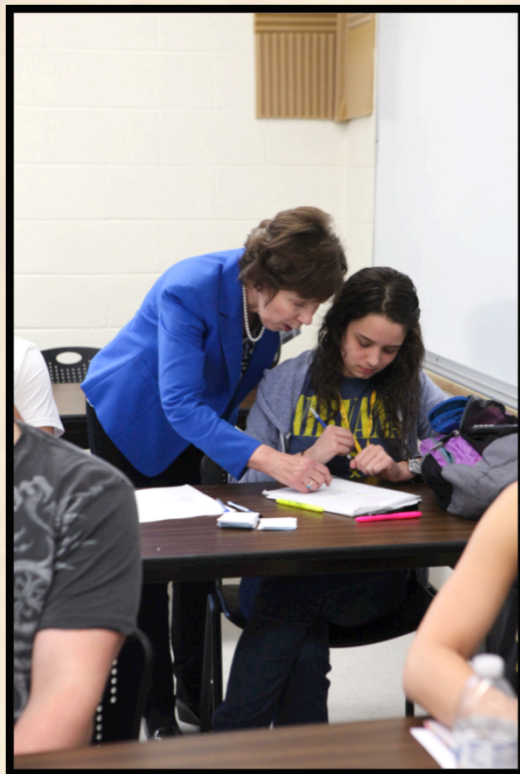
I believe that teaching can change the lives of our students, not only through their course work, but also through character building. The focus should be on student development. In a program such as the one I chair, it is a privilege to watch students grow from novice to professional.

—Carrie Hobbs, Tyler Junior College (TX)



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Teachers should be people of character, integrity, passion for their content area, and loving concern for their students. All teachers should take on the role of servant. When my students ask me, "Do you have time for me?", I must make time for them. They are the reason I am here.

—Charlotte Latham, Tyler Junior College (TX)



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Lori Bell has been a member of the physical plant staff since 2007. She is known for her high standard of performance and reliability as she ensures one of the UACCB's most popular facilities, Independence Hall, is always presentable for students, community members, and guests who frequent the facility.

—Lori Bell, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (AR)



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UACCB psychology faculty member Shelly Wooldridge is known for the energetic and fun ways she keeps students engaged in the classroom. Students have changed their major to psychology because of the impact she made. Her organization and diligence are apparent in leadership roles she has been appointed to campuswide.

—Shelly Wooldridge, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (AR)



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I enjoy working with students through student-focused activities on campus. Working as the assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academics has provided many opportunities to share the commitment of the Academic Deans to assist students in finding ways to better help them achieve their dreams and reach their full potential.
—Kaye Cheatham, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (AR)



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To change a life is sometimes to save a life. There is no greater compensation than knowing you helped to improve the life of an individual, family, or community. This is what education is all about. This is my purpose.

—Laura Clark, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope (AR)



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Students must be encouraged to challenge "truth." Because of the truly inquisitive, today's "truth" quite often becomes yesterday's failed assumption.
—David Brunick, Valencia College (FL)



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Above all else, student learning motivates my work. Whether the work is directly with students in the classroom or with my colleagues in a conference room, how students will benefit is always my driving force. In this pursuit, I believe an active, organized, collaborative, and questioning attitude is essential.

—Marcelle Cohen, Valencia College (FL)



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Inspiration and motivation comes from that light bulb I see turn on in my students' eyes! One success strategy comes from Don Ward. I remind students that if they are going to doubt something, doubt their limits. Some words of wisdom—travel light, live light, spread the light, be the light.

—Deb Hall, Valencia College (FL)



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"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away" (Picasso). Benevolent challenger, this is my gift. I seek to challenge students to express the best in themselves, serving as a guide on the side in students' discovery of potential. While I inspire, I'm also inspired as I walk with students building a path together on their learning journey.

—Celeste Henry, Valencia College (FL)



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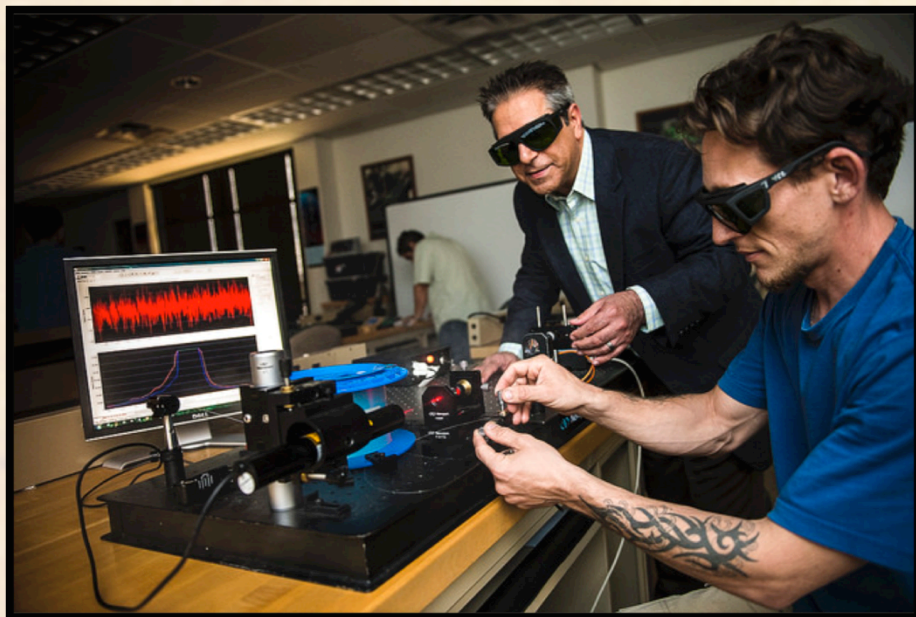
The best part of my job is advising the Model United Nations. The energy and enthusiasm of the students keeps me motivated. Being an advisor gives me an opportunity to mentor students for more than just the one semester they are in my class. Moreover, it allows me to stay connected to the campus community outside of the classroom.

—Adrienne Mathews, Valencia College (FL)



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Students are such great experiences in an educator's life. As faculty members, we teach and help students with valuable lessons in academic, professional, and social settings. Students are similar to newfound jewels, jewels we try to polish and have shine. The funny thing in this process is that they polish and make us shine as well! And this alone, can be one the greatest rewards, joys, and challenges of being an educator.

—Ali Notash, Valencia College (FL)



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Authentic learning, within community, can change a student's life. And that can change the world. Every student should be challenged to think deeply, explore new ideas and knowledge, and connect what they learn with their values. This is our work (and it is vitally important)—to facilitate student learning and development.

—Cathy Penfold Navarro, Valencia College (FL)



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As a professor in Teacher Education, I believe if change has to come in our society, it should begin in our schools. I believe in preparing teachers who have the skills and knowledge to promote highly-educated peaceful citizens! I hope to teach and touch the future to make it more peaceful!

—Yasmeen Qadri, Valencia College (FL)



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I believe students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Each student is special and deserves holistic attention to help achieve their unique goals. I enjoy creating teams that support students on their individual journey while encouraging staff in achievement of their own goals.

—Cheryl Robinson, Valencia College (FL)



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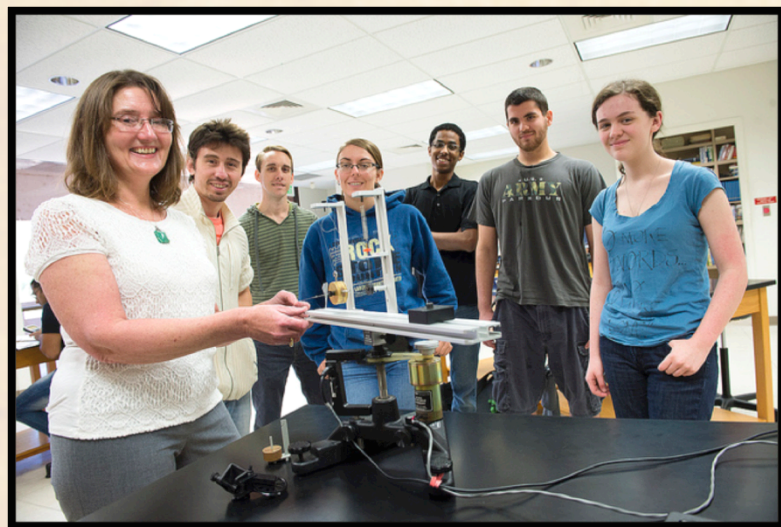
When my students ask me for ways to explore biology beyond our class work, it's deeply inspiring. They have the talent and desire to ask and innovate, and given the chance they always do more than I could expect. It's my privilege to provide them with the opportunity to do so.

—Brenda Schumpert, Valencia College (FL)



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I am privileged to be able to help and to influence new generation of citizens. I also just love physics and teaching. Both are not easy, and there are downs along the way. However, anytime I start feeling down, I remember my students and their success stories. They inspire me.

—Irina Struganoga, Valencia College (FL)



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Throughout my career, I've worked with the underemployed, inmates, and traditional students alike. As executive assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, I continue to serve on the front line of inspiring and supporting students to help them achieve success in their professional and personal lives.

—Melissa Ayscue

Vance-Granville Community College (NC)



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A favorite teaching moment for me happened when VGCC was invited to participate in a cooking competition with big-school competitors. I accepted and picked two students I felt would fare well in this forum. I'm proud to say we took first place. The hard work pays off.

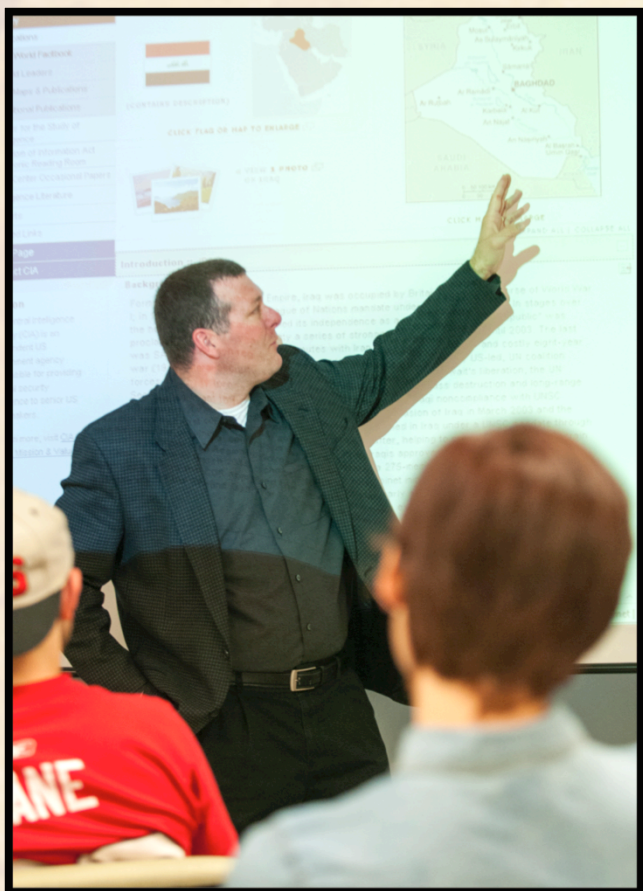
—Ross Ragonese

Vance-Granville Community College (NC)



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I strive to find relevant “real-world” examples that illustrate the concepts and topics covered in my classes. I am fortunate to teach in the field of political science, a discipline that offers great real-world examples on a daily basis!

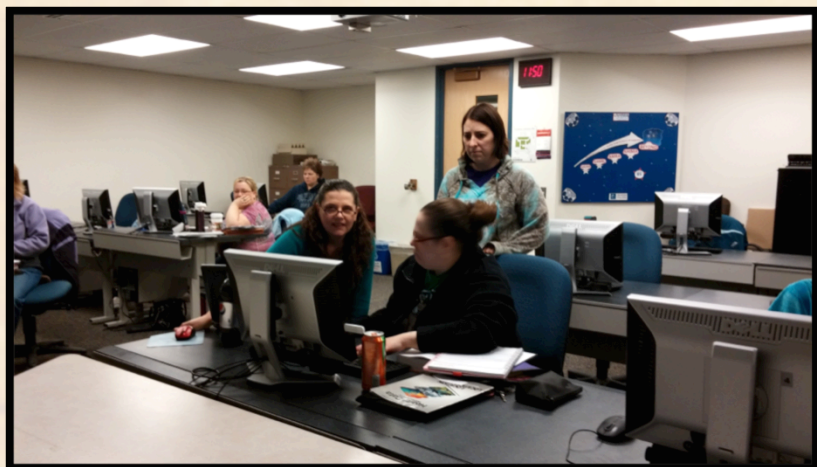
—Richard Kiefer

Waubonsee Community College (IL)



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Graduation Day—Seeing the pride on my students' faces as they make that walk, reflecting on how I am blessed to have been a part of the unique journey each faced that first day of class, and knowing this is just their beginning, inspires me beyond words.

—Angela Lee

Waukesha County Technical College (WI)



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What inspires me? Seeing a student who had never considered attending college receive their diploma and knowing that I helped plant that seed when they first came to see me about attending college. Admissions and Student Services have been my passion for over 25 years, and working daily with students continues to fuel my passion to see the next generation of students pursue their educational dreams.

—Becki Byrd, Weatherford College (TX)



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Assisting students in their educational journey has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have found that compassion and understanding have been key to showing students they can succeed if they are willing to dedicate themselves to gaining the skills needed to pursue their goals.

—Beverly Gibbs, Weatherford College (TX)



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I wanted to develop engaging alternatives for students to learn without the fear of operating the truck. The plunger in a box teaches the shifting patterns, and using a remote control truck lets them view different angles when backing up. These activities have had a very successful impact on student success.

—Rod Herron, Western Iowa Tech Community College (IA)



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Teaching allows me to do something I love. Each day is an opportunity to challenge, motivate, and encourage my students. It is exciting to witness their transformation! I am rewarded knowing that I have made a difference in their lives and have had a positive impact on my community.

—Jennifer McCune

Western Iowa Tech Community College (IA)



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Teaching is about experiencing that unpredictable transformation. It is the feeling of knowing that not only am I teaching students and impacting their lives, but they are impacting my life, as well. I learn from them, too. Every student has such incredible potential, and together we are creating new and endless possibilities.

—Sandra Mueller

Western Iowa Tech Community College (IA)



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—Jimidene Murphey, Wharton County Junior College (TX)



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I get to teach students something I have enjoyed my whole life—making things grow. My students are looking for education to achieve better employment opportunities, home food production, or possibly just a little horticultural therapy! I'm glad I'm the one who gets to do it! Everyone likes healthy fruits and veggies! I truly love what I do.
—Justin Brereton, Yavapai College (AZ)



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—Justin Brereton, Yavapai College (AZ)



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Failure should be an expected and welcome part of education, a step on the journey instead of its end. I want my classes to be a safe place for students to aim for goals currently beyond their grasp. And to take the words of Samuel Becket as their inspiration, in class and out: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

—Suzanne Waldenberger, Yavapai College (AZ)



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When I left healthcare to teach, I had no idea how deeply I would touch peoples' lives and the continuum it would create. Teaching has given me the opportunity to contribute profoundly through my students and community. I have gained even more through the privilege of being their teacher.

—Michele Wells, York Technical College (SC)