## **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **SHREAIL HINTON**

Kate Ambitious said that you should never downgrade your dream to fit your present reality, but to upgrade your attitude, discipline, skills, and habits to match your vision. This is something I tell students when talking with them. I remind them that the greatest battle is within themselves and that not trying is failing.

NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE





### TAMARA RAHAL

My inspiration comes from the pride and happiness I see on every face at commencement, whether it be that of a graduate or someone there as a guest. It brings my heart pure joy to see the hard work, dedication, and success of our graduates being celebrated by their loved ones.

**NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE** 



### NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE





### **SHERRI TOWNSEND**

My teaching philosophy and methods vary for each class, but I try to stay centered on these points: Consistent standards, clear expectations, active learning, and a friendly, collaborative relationship between students and instructor. I think in order to be an effective instructor, we must listen to our students and adjust to fit their needs.

**NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE** 





### JENNIFER BAKER

I am inspired by our dedicated and talented faculty, who continually look to improve their students' learning experiences. We collaborate to incorporate proven and innovative techniques into their course design, which can increase student engagement and course satisfaction, as well as success.



### **ALLISSA FLINT-KUMMEL**

The dedication of my students inspires me to ensure there are no barriers that are being placed to interfere with their success. One simple interaction or change can impact a student's entire educational journey. Be the positive impact in your students' lives!



### **TIFFANY MAGNOLIA**

I have been an English professor for the past 20 years and an honors program coordinator for five. What keeps me coming back year after year is that spark in a student's eyes when the whole world opens up to them. It truly is a joy.



### **MARY MENG-LEE**

Each and every day I am inspired by the students and colleagues that I work with, and there is never a dull moment where I am not challenged by perhaps a student who is having difficulty with a physical therapy concept we are teaching or a collegewide question that requires faculty input.



### **JANE SAUNDERS**

My success as an educator is based solely on the excellence of the team of people I work with, members of the community college at large, and their dedication to the communities we serve. I wholeheartedly believe in the mission of North Shore Community College and community colleges in general.







### **BONITA CRUMP**

As Early Childhood educators, our love for children and passion for the field require an expansive knowledge of all facets of Early Childhood Development. Preschoolers' first educational experiences develop with curriculums that ensure they receive the very best opportunity for a successful academic foundation and to instill a love of learning.

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### TIFFANY JOHNSON

Being a part of the Foundation for the past 23 years has been such a blessing. We see such generosity by so many individuals that simply give to make students' lives better. That is a unique experience and one that inspires me in every aspect of my life.

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **SHERITA TAYLOR**

As a librarian, I get to meet so many students. Each day, I have the opportunity to speak with people from different backgrounds working to improve their lives and become successful in whatever they choose to do. It brings great joy to be able to assist them on their journey and celebrate their successes.

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE





### **SUSAN FICHERA**

I reside in Plaistow, New Hampshire. This is my 9th year of fulltime faculty employment at Northern Essex Community College. I also worked for two years prior, part time, teaching Medical Assisting!

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **LAURA MONDT**

The best part about being a librarian is learning alongside the students. I enjoy digging into an unfamiliar topic every day and connecting students to the resources they need to answer their research questions.

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE





### **PAMELA BRADEN**

People say that we as teachers inspire our students, however my students have inspired me much more than I have ever dreamed possible. Watching them succeed is a driving force to keep me striving for greatness.

NORTHSHORE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **NATASHA FORET**

As an educator, never forget your inspiration for learning new things or your passion for teaching. I want to model lifelong learning for my students. It is that inspiration that drives me to seek out new training, different perspectives, and opportunities for improvement in a field about which I am passionate.

NORTHSHORE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-NORTHWEST VISTA** COLLEGE



### MILTON MCMANIGLE

The philosophy that I use for teaching government is "user friendly." I like to use everyday examples of how government impacts people's lives. A round table discussion format creates comfort for students to discuss political issues in a constructive and civil manner. Understanding and appreciation of governing is the result.

**NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE** 



### **ERICA MONTANYE**

Creative freedom can be transformative for the instructor and the student. Experiential learning is contagious when the classroom extends into the real world and students are free to actively learn by doing, applying, creating, and revising with the foundational understanding that course concepts are meant to be applied - so make it real!

NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE





### **BECCA RICHARDSON**

As a math teacher I am able to inspire students who struggle with the subject and help them develop critical problem-solving skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. By showing them the value of hard work and persistence, I can make a difference in their academic success, as well as their future success.

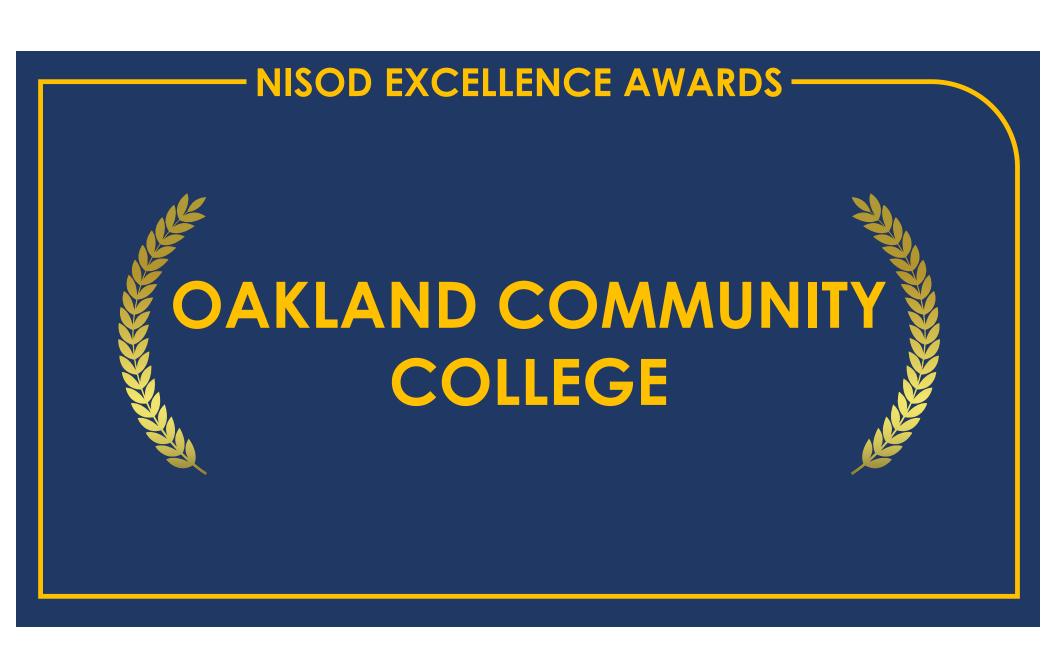
NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE



### **NICOLE SPEELMAN**

Marie Curie said, "I am among those who think that science has great beauty. A scientist in his laboratory is not only a technician; he is also a child placed before natural phenomena which impress him like a fairy tale." I hope to inspire my students to be amazed by the chemical world around them.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE





### JENNIFER LITTLE

Trust and creativity are key elements. "We all have a talent to be human" - Chekhov. I encourage students to trust themselves, me, the process, and our support of each another. I remind myself of Freire's words, "[Our] efforts must be imbued with a profound trust in people and their creative power." Trust them. Trust yourself.

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



### **SARAH PILE**

I am motivated by students who someday in the real world will make the difference in someone's hour of need. If I were to offer some words of wisdom, it would be take care of yourself, never stop learning, and always do your best, treating every patient as a member of your own family.

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 

# **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**OAKTON COLLEGE



### MINDY FINNIGAN

Everything I do at Oakton College aims to support and strengthen the community inside our walls and beyond. I strive to develop in myself and encourage in others a growth and equity oriented mindset. Everyone is capable of learning new things, changing their perspective, and creating more meaning in their lives.



### KHURSHEED ICHHAPORIA

I teach because I believe each student is a sentient, intelligent, beautiful individual who can blossom and showcase their abilities, goals, and cultural backgrounds to their fullest. I am constantly pursuing professional development opportunities to learn to help students succeed in a world where change is the constant.



### **MARGARET KNAPP**

Students get excited about learning when we place the bar just slightly higher than they think they can reach, and we then give them the tools of critical thinking, research, collaboration, and vivid expression so they leave our classes with a full tool belt. They then have confidence that they know \*how\* to learn.



### **MARIANNE MILLMAN**

The connections with my students and collaborations with my colleagues inspire my passion for teaching and commitment to life-long professional development. My words of wisdom, inside and outside of the classroom, are to have a positive attitude, be open-minded, go outside of your comfort zone, and remember the slogan, "Impossible is Nothing."



#### LESLIE VAN WOLVELEAR

I am passionate about teaching accounting students by creating a welcoming environment, including engaging activities, and connecting the course content to real world examples. Students learn best by practicing and applying accounting concepts.

**OAKTON COLLEGE** 



#### **NELSON WAINWRIGHT**

Everyone can learn. Our job is to help students realize this and then act upon it.

**OAKTON COLLEGE** 



#### **RUTH WHITNEY**

Teaching information literacy is vital. With our help students can find, evaluate, and respectfully use print, digital, and media sources. Students surprise and inspire me with the ways they learn and what they create for their classes. My best recommendation? Keep calm and ask a librarian!

**OAKTON COLLEGE** 



## OLDS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY





#### **BOB HOFFOS**

Whenever I give myself the breathing space to actively engage and collaborate with my fellow staff and students, great things happen. Connecting my students to real-life geospatial challenges in the environmental and agricultural industries and mentoring them through this often messy process continues to motivate me as a teacher.

**OLDS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY** 







#### **BARBARA BROWN**

Every semester, I attempt to create a community of learners where students feel safe making mistakes, collaborating on assignments, and sharing their stories. Sharing leads to trust, openness, and comfort. Time with my writing scholars can be busy, overwhelming, and challenging, but it is always full of impactful learning, laughter, and discourse.



#### VALERIA DAVIS

I value the relationships with my colleagues, professors, students and administration. My favorite and best experience come from serving on committees, committees at the College. Committees that are formed to do the work needed for the greater good of all. I am honored to be a part of the narrative of City Colleges of Chicago.



#### **NEKEDA KIRKWOOD**

Maya Angelou said, "When you know better, do better." I believe in providing accurate and timely information to my students so they can make the best-informed decisions about their education. I hope that with the advice and information I provide, they will do better.



#### **BARBARA MOSLEY**

The passion to help young children achieve the most important milestones in their lives, that will enable them to learn and develop the skills necessary for success is something that brings me so much joy.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and it's best hope for the future."

– John F Kennedy



#### **TANYA WATKINS**

It's not about me, its about our students future.





#### **DENISE DOUGLASS**

I actually get paid to talk all day long! Truthfully, I do a lot more listening than speaking. It's my joy to listen to students, current and prospective, share their future goals and ambitions and then help them get started achieving those dreams! How blessed am I?!

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE







#### **ALLAN NOSWORTHY**

Many thanks to Linda Nosworthy and Aleeza Heeman for their consistent support.



#### KALISHA WALDON

Inspired by my students, I strive to foster an environment of trust, growth, and exploration where students are empowered and supported to take risks, share ideas, and think outside the box. I find joy in nurturing their brilliance and using their assets and experiences to create a classroom culture of boundless opportunities.



#### **LAUREN ZATTO**

My primary passion is to spread my love for learning and encourage students to be lifelong learners. My secondary passion is to help students excel in math by showing them the beauty and relevance of math, as well as the satisfaction of problem-solving.





#### **JENNIFER MEJIA**

I value our team and leaders who continue to have a "can do spirit." We are a united family who are passionate about the community and students we serve.

**PALO ALTO COLLEGE** 





#### C. BRITT CARLSON

Science suffers when only certain voices are heard – when only certain people decide which questions are asked. We must show students with different voices that there is a place for them in science. When students have the opportunity to actually do science, they are empowered to see themselves as scientists.

PARKLAND COLLEGE



#### PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE





#### **DAVID RATISHER**

After a multiple-decade career in the professional workplace, and now as an instructor, I'm committed to doing my part to help the next generation of future professionals in every line of work be prepared to succeed, grow, do high-quality work, and achieve (and exceed) their potential.

**PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE** 







#### LAUREN BAUGUS

I love seeing students who have struggled with writing become confident with their words and ideas as they progress through one of my classes. My goal is not simply to help them pass a class, but to take skills from it that will lead to success in their lives and careers.



#### KATE CAVANAUGH

I love watching my students soar after they leave my classroom. I teach the hardest classes they take (General and Organic Chemistry) and make sure they can hold their own. Not everyone makes it through the class, but they take the problem-solving skills they learn and to their (sometimes newly) chosen field.



#### TABITHA EPPERSON-GRAHAM

I delight seeing students grasp concepts for the first time as they realize that the class material relates to current events and interactions happening all around them daily. I relish being one small piece of their journey towards achieving their goals.



#### **DON LEE**

Some things I can teach you. Other things I have to awaken in you. It is up to you to apply those things for the betterment of your fellow man. First...do no harm!



#### **ROBYN LUDLUM**

I've always loved learning. My favorite pastime as a child was grabbing a volume from the Encyclopedia at home, flipping it open and reading about whatever subject appeared. I try hard to encourage that same love of learning in my students. Then, schoolwork becomes less of a chore and more of an adventure.



#### **NECIA NICHOLAS**

It's easy to be motivated and inspired when exploring the human body. Seeing students make connections between our discussions and the balance of health and disease keeps me excited. Educating future healthcare providers is rewarding and comes with the bonus of no one ever asking me, "When will I use this in real life?"



#### JENNIFER WORTENDYKE

The sheer joy it brings me to watch students' faces light up when they understand a hard concept makes me feel like teaching was my true calling in life. Knowing that I am helping train the next generation of medical professionals touches me to the core, as I am truly making a difference.

# **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**PHOENIX COLLEGE

#### **ROBERTO VILLEGAS-GOLD**

I am continuously inspired by minoritized communities and the resiliency of the students that enter our college to begin their journey through higher education. I have the immense privilege of working with students who traditionally would not access or complete higher education, and their persistence despite systemic barriers that exist to prevent their success.

PHOENIX COLLEGE





#### **JENNEY JOHNS**

I love working at PTC because I enjoy being a part of something meaningful, even if I am one of the people who resides behind the scenes. It means different things to different people, but PTC does change lives, and that is a meaningful thing that is important to me.

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE





# **JESSICA BERNARDS**

I'm honored as it's partnerships with others at PCC that I take the most pride in. I'm a better instructor because of collaboration.



#### **MELISSA DUKE**

I think that If we each exercise our privilege as PCC employees to make an impactful contribution to equitable education, we can build a better college, a better community, and a better world.



#### **HEATHER GRIFFO**

My focus is to engage students by making course material relevant to their lives and to help them apply their knowledge and skills to real-world business situations. I am committed to empowering people to successfully complete their degree, enter the workforce, and progress in their careers.



# **CYNTHIA KILLINGSWORTH**

The words "community college" keep our course true for building community between instructor and students, strengthening the sense of belonging in our classrooms, and deepening the connections to the world around us. These relationships are everything.



# ARISTIDES (ARI) PETRIDES

I have the opportunity to encourage students to become social agents of change. Through community-based learning opportunities, students foster critical reflection and engage with their peers in real-world issues.





## **JANE LESNIEWSKI**

I'm motivated by my students every day. In my advising role, I learn just as much from my students as they learn from me. It is an honor to walk with them through their various life chapters in higher education.

**QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



# **FLO LUCCI**

Keep students at the center of your priorities and decisions as a faculty member.

**QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 







#### **JESSICA BROWN**

I am continually inspired by the motivation of my students to pursue their dreams for a better life through obtaining an education. My mission is to not only provide a space where my students are encouraged to persevere through and overcome life's obstacles, but also to celebrate every victory, big or small.



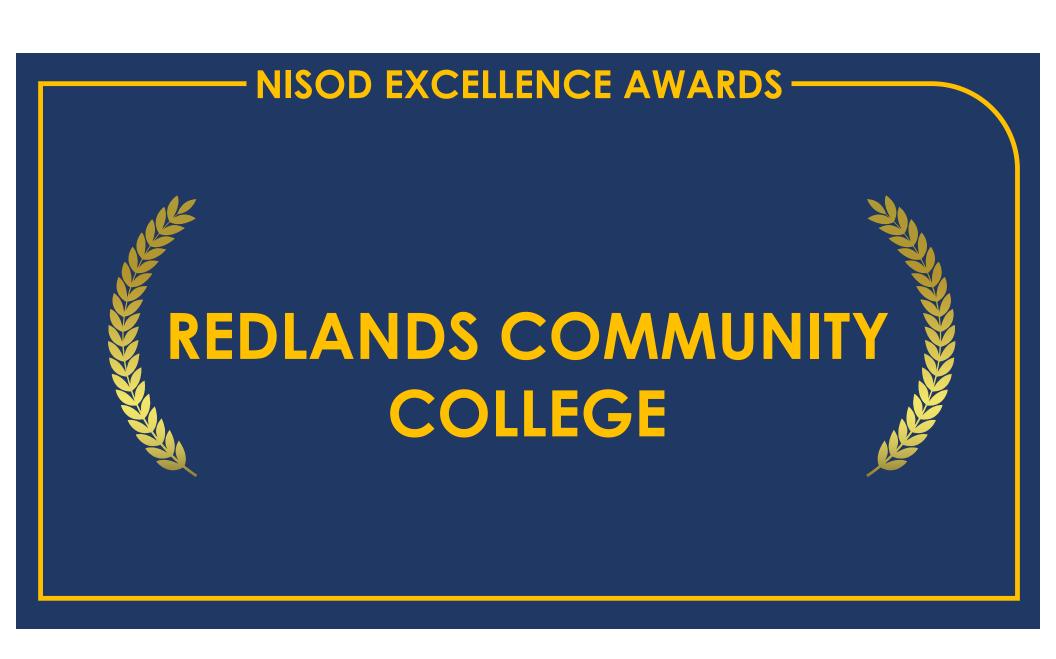
# **DENNIS (LANCE) HAWVERMALE**

Ranger College continues to transform lives with holistic advising and personalized instruction. I'm proud to be a part of such a dedicated institution.



# **DEBBIE KARL**

I have worked in higher education for 33 years and have enjoyed teaching students and mentoring colleagues. Passing on knowledge and the wisdom of experience is especially rewarding to me. Never give up on your education...it is something that no one can take away from you.





#### **JALELAH ABDUL-RAHEEM**

I am inspired I get to make a difference in students' lives. This is my way of giving back and realizing that the work I do is bigger than I am. It is rewarding to see students excel despite the odds they face along the way.

**REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





# LILY DAVIDOV

I love working with students inside and outside of the classroom. My passion is to inspire students to believe in themselves, cultivate their strengths, and solidify their abilities to do amazing things. There are no shortcuts; the only way to achieve your goals is through applying perseverance and hard work.

**RIO SALADO COLLEGE** 



#### **KAREN DOCHERTY**

Serving the students, faculty, and staff of Rio Salado College and my district is my joy. As a librarian, one of my favorite roles is providing the right resource at the right time. Whether it's information or people, I relish making connections so together we learn and grow.

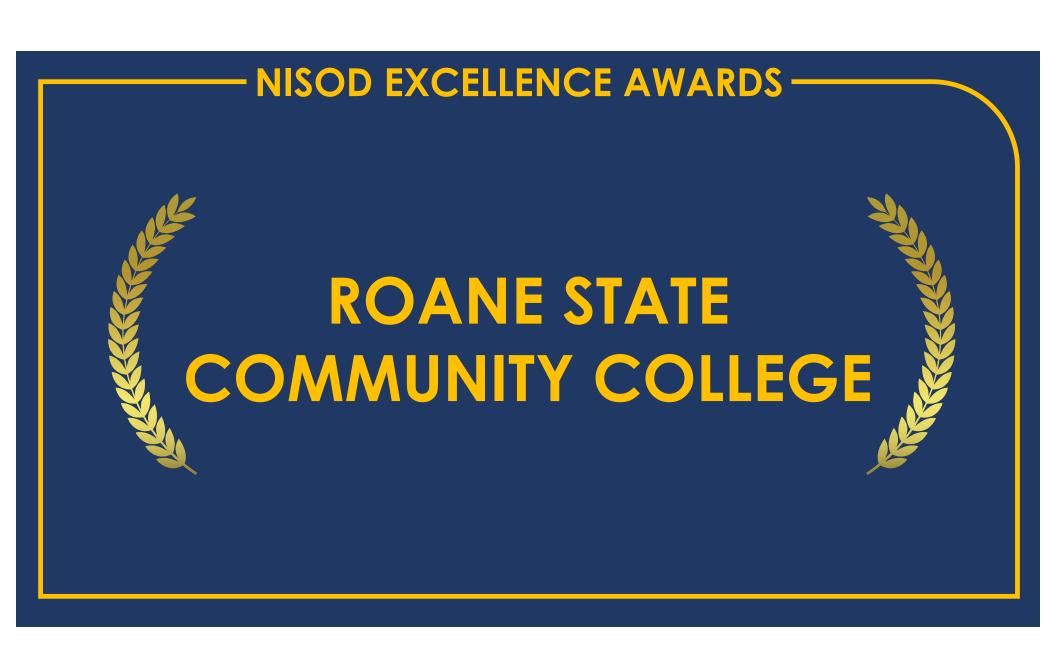
**RIO SALADO COLLEGE** 



#### MICHAEL HODGINS

Respect the past but innovate for the future. When I hear, "We can't do that," my first thought is, "What if we do this?" Effective educational leaders meet students and staff where they are by disrupting norms for the greater good of the institution and all those served by it.

**RIO SALADO COLLEGE** 





#### **KRYSTEN ANDERSON**

All students are writers, whether they believe it or not. My job is to help them believe it. Finding their "voice" is everything, so when students discover it and use it, they also discover the power of their words and ideas. They find out that they are, in fact, writers.

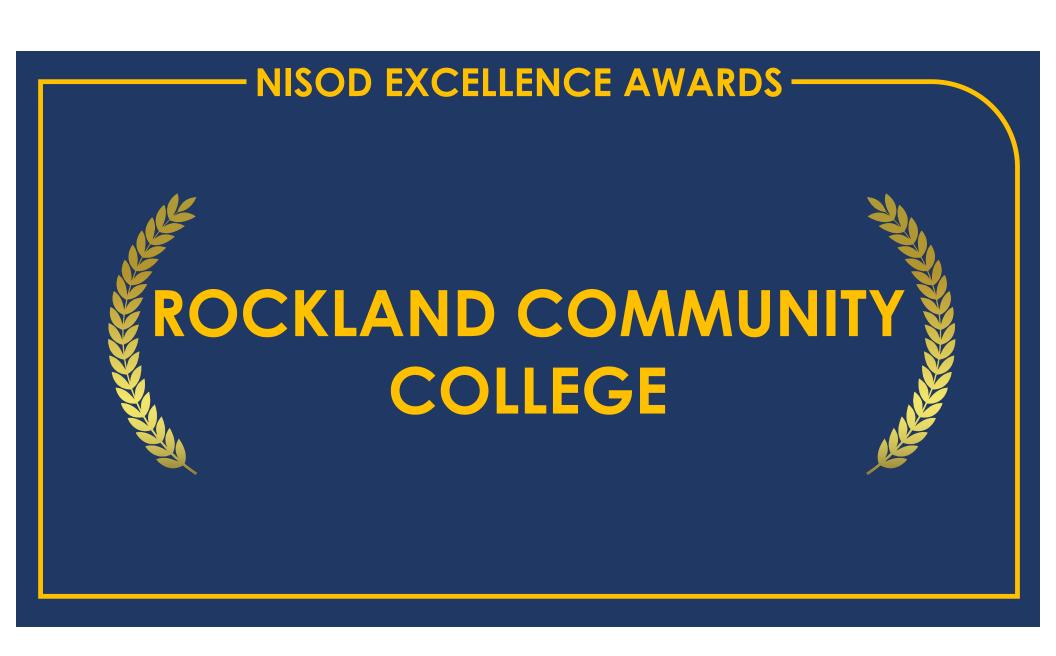
**ROANE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



## JESSICA DALTON-CARRIGER

As a first-generation college student myself, I know how challenging college can be and I strive to help my students navigate this time in their lives. In the classroom, I want to inspire my students to explore other cultures and to think critically about the world.

**ROANE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





#### **MARK DAVIDOFF**

I managed hospitality businesses in NYC for 35 years. Today, I am given the flexibility and authority to create, launch, and participate in programs that I find fun, challenging, rewarding, and provide services to our community. The heart of hospitality is the desire to be of service. I am happy being of service.

**ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



# **BRIAN GOMEZ**

"We never know which lives we influence, or when, or why."

- Stephen King

**ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



#### **PATRICIA KOBES**

John F. Kennedy said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." A person's leadership style may be different for everyone, but I center my mine around the approach that one should never expect more of others than they are willing to do themselves. I believe we all need to work together to benefit our students.

**ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





#### **SHERRY STANCLIFF**

Changing lives, one student at a time, is the "why" of my teaching. Students enter my classroom intending to become healthcare professionals; they inspire and challenge me to create innovative learning experiences which ultimately transform their lives and the communities they serve as certified and licensed occupational therapy assistants.

**ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





#### **ROXANNE BARRERA SALITURO**

For anything to grow, it must be given the resources it needs to thrive. I believe this applies to our employees as well. In order to provide our best services, we have to ensure employees are given the resources they need in order to succeed.

SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE



# LISA RAMOS

Teaching is a challenge. We will never find the perfect formula to reach all students all of the time. But we can strive to make connections through sharing our own struggles, showing we care about our students as a whole person, authentically sharing our curiosities, and being open to students' curiosities.

**SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE** 





# **MATTHEW HEALY**

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." As teachers, our first obligation is to provide students the opportunities to change the world, and then empower them to do it.

**SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 



**MOLLIE SUTHERLAND** 

SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE





#### **MALLORY ATTORP**

I have a deep respect for each of my students' individual learning and life experiences. I believe that is where all instructor-student relationships should begin. From respect grows understanding, support, encouragement and, most importantly, love! I love my work and I want the same for my students.

SELKIRK COLLEGE



#### **ELIZABETH FERGUSON**

It is my honor to inspire students to achieve their personal best through the wisdom of our Indigenous elders, artists, and scientists, and the inherent right to practice and articulate the philosophy of our ancestors so they may have the expertise to be dedicated change-agents, proactive in the global community. What a privilege!

SELKIRK COLLEGE

## **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE



#### **SANDRA STANDISH**

I'm inspired by the dedication, heart, and resilience of my amazing colleagues. They serve with empathy, are problem solvers, and don't give up on their students. They're also a lot of fun! I'm proud to lead such a wonderful team of people.

**SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





#### RACHAEL E. BROWN

I have a strong interest in guiding students through a realization of creative talent and practice of artistic discipline. Art helps students discover and appreciate their own culture, as well as others. The greatest reward of teaching art: It demonstrates that we are united as humans by our creativity. Paradoxically, creativity also expresses our individuality.



#### AIMEE A. CASTRO

The future depends on what you do today.



#### MELISSA CHAVEZ

As a nurse educator, my goal is to inspire nursing students to be passionate about learning, to be able to critically think, and to prioritize while being an empathetic, caring nurse. Health care is always evolving and it is essential to give our nursing students a strong foundation for greater learning.



#### **YVETTE GONZALEZ**

Being part of a higher education institution, you experience the energy, commitment, and impact each employee contributes to achieving college accessibility in the community. The most rewarding memories in my career have been witnessing a student's confidence and dedication grow as they pursue their college education and their excitement on graduation day.



#### **MARICELA OLIVA**

I focus on helping students transition into and succeed in college, especially underrepresented students. These are a growing majority in Texas, and institutions sometimes need help updating practices and policies to address their needs. Growing up Mexican-American, first-generation to college, and low-income positions me to respond effectively. Stay grounded.



#### **ELIZABETH PARRA**

What inspires me as an associate degree nursing advisor is being part of students' nursing journey from beginning to end. Building trust by providing different educational pathways, support, and encouragement during the program because their success is your success!



#### **HILAIRE SAINT-PIERRE**

Empowering my students to succeed in the classroom and professionally has always driven me to help them in any way possible. I am in constant communication with my students and always try to put myself in their shoes with empathy and understanding while encouraging them to thrive to their potential.



#### **RONALD F. SCHERMERHORN III**

Connection through engagement leads to course content excitement and is followed by a transfer value to other classes, courses, paths, and careers!



#### **SAMUEL SOLIS**

While attending college, instructors motivated and inspired me to continue pursuing my goals. Their advice allowed me to continue through challenging courses. I aim to become like those instructors and continue motivating students with their educational and career goals.



### SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE





#### **DEIDRA DUGGER**

I understand what it means to be a dreamer and overcome obstacles in life. Being a teen mother, first-generation college student, and primarily maneuvering through barriers. It's an honor responding to the needs and supporting the traditionally underserved population of African American male students. Helping them live out their dreams, from start to finish.

SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE



#### **GAYLA LOVE**

Someone saw potential in me when I doubted myself. While I can, I will pay it forward to help another. "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." - Mother Teresa

SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE





#### WILFORD CLAVILLE

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said, "A good teacher is like a candle. It consumes itself to light the way for others." I have come to realize that, simply for the reward of class success, teachers unselfishly sacrifice time, energy, effort, and themselves to light the way for each student.



#### **ANJELICA HART**

When a student enters my classroom, I have the opportunity to fulfill my passion for education and compassion for students. As an educator, it's important to educate students beyond the classroom, encourage students by providing support and instilling self-confidence, and empower students to become the best version of themselves personally and professionally.



#### **SHERMAN HOUSTON**

Dr. King once said, "Whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." In my courses, I inspire my students to learn from the past in order to move forward. We cannot move forward as a society if we don't discuss the issues that lead us to where we are today.



#### **SHANNON LEVINGSTON**

My work goal everyday is to partner with my constituents within our organization and the community to further the growth of our department, thus furthering the development and growth of the University. The key word is partner. A healthy partnership leads to professional growth. My advice would be to develop healthy partnerships.



#### **GWENDOLYN TENNELL**

It has always been my goal to encourage faculty to enhance their coursework with new ideas before presenting the class to the students. By creating an environment that best serves their students, it may encourage students to do more if the coursework is relevant to today.



#### **SHIRLEY VIDES**

I strive to ignite a spark in my students through interactive lectures, group activities, discussions, and any means necessary to provide knowledge and the required tools that enhance their growth and understanding, foster a safe environment, and keep the spark alive long after they leave my classroom.



## SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE





#### LANDRA L. FOWLER

When teaching is energetic and dynamic to the learning process, students excel. I cultivate learning challenges for students to draw on real-world principles so they are empowered to think independently, question uncertainty, and serve others faithfully. Teaching is a gift worth sharing, and I find fulfillment through student growth.

**SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE** 





#### **DYAN LESTER**

I have served as the director of distance learning for SWCC, and have directed multiple grants, including a Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions grant, and a Department of Labor TAACCCT grant. I have extensive experience in writing and implementing policy and procedures, as well as training materials. My greatest achievements at Southwest have been helping students find their way in life and leading an empowered staff to do the same.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



#### **JASON VENCILL**

Being able to assist our student athletes as they continue their playing careers while earning a credential is very rewarding. Our student athletes drive, passion, and work ethic is contiguous. My desire is to work as hard for our student athletes as they work daily to achieve success on the field and in the classroom.

**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE** 





#### **AKASH GARG**

What inspires me in my work is seeing the positive impact I can make on the lives of my students. To drive success, I prioritize building relationships and creating a supportive learning environment. My advice to others is to embrace a growth mindset, never stop learning, and put students first in all actions.

SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE





#### **JONATHAN BARNES**

I am inspired every day by my students to push myself and my instruction. Their passion, in turn, ignites my passion for teaching and my own studio practice. I love when my students take risks in the studio from my encouragement, and it forces me to never stop learning.



#### **MISTY KEMP**

For as long as I can remember, my philosophy of higher education has been, "Meet the students where they are, serve the community where the need is the greatest, and humbly remember no one reaches success alone." If self-actualization is the goal, then education is the opportunity.



#### **SUNITA KUMARI**

Every opportunity to engage in sense-making and discussion of real-time local and global events through the lens of the principles of economics is refreshing each time students have that "Aha" moment!



#### **JANINE LYMAN**

Everyone is a student of one thing and a teacher of another. Be vulnerable enough in the moments when you can learn from others. Be empowered enough to humbly lead them to enlightenment when they can learn from you. And in every moment, remember that you are equals.

#### **SHARON OLSEN**

I am dedicated to cultivating within my students a growth mindset and a passion for thinking critically. I believe that the path to student success involves allowing students to become active players in the learning experience, and I value real world research experiences that foster a deeper understanding of human behavior.

# **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE



### **MEREDITH BESS**

I believe that education begins long before a person enters the classroom. A great start leads to a successful end. My role is to lead the way.



### **BEAUTRICE BUTLER**

My inspiration comes from helping others succeed in meeting their desired outcomes and goals. Providing knowledge and resources to students over the years has given me a sense of giving back and fulfillment to know that I have elevated them to be the best version of themselves.



### **JACOB COLUNGA**

I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of a campus community where student success is the foremost Purpose and goal of each department.



### **SPENCER GALVAN**

I love helping students understand cultural, historical, and linguistic diversity as they navigate their paths through college. We are building a living, breathing, inspirational legacy with these students, and the more I can get them visiting museums, engaging in the community, presenting in conferences, and researching, the better their college experiences and understanding will be.



### **MEAGAN SOVINE**

As a first-generation, low-income, Mexican-American female student, I never imagined that I would earn a college degree, master's degree, and a doctorate. I now seek to uplift students with similar labels and to inspire them to achieve their academic dreams, too, because, "Si se puede!"



### **JACQUELINE STEVENSON**

My teaching philosophy is to create an environment that allows for learning and supervised exploration. As an occupational therapist, I believe that the most significant learning occurs during skills labs where the student is put in situations that are meaningful and realistic to develop clinical reasoning.



### **IRENE YOUNG**

"The wise teaches the mouth and adds learning to the lips." - Biblical Proverb. Teaching and learning, both intellectual in nature, extend from the heart. I encourage students to pursue educational aspirations and live out professional ambitions; make wise, educated contributions to this world; and be a positive influence, an inspirational difference!

### **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS -**STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **KARA FINCH**

I am so thankful to be able to do what I love every single day. It is an honor to be able to support and encourage students to reach their goals, and I enjoy celebrating their successes with them!

STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE





### **CHARLES CADENHEAD**

As an educator, I motivate students to discover their passions, learn, and achieve their goals. I create an engaging and supportive environment, encouraging curiosity and allowing exploration at their own pace.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **ANGELA LONG**

All human beings have intrinsic worth and value. With determination and support, anyone is capable of achieving the highest level of excellence. It is through this belief that I seek to be of service to others for the greater good of society and live authentically through my faith that daily inspires me.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE







### MOHAMED CHEHBOUNI

Whether face to face, blended, or online format, I work tirelessly to engage students in becoming problem solvers and critical thinkers. It is always rewarding to see the joy on the students' faces when they understand complicated topics about chemistry.



### **RICHARD MILLER**

Subject matter should be relevant to the student's life experiences. In my classes, I build upon the idea that "Art reflects the times, people, and culture that created it." Through art, we are able to see through the eyes of another to better understand each other as well as ourselves.



### WILLIAM WALDROUP

Be genuine; be true to your style. We're all at our best when we are being ourselves. If you are comfortable being yourself, students will feel safer expressing themselves. And if we can empower students to be more confident and courageous versions of themselves, then we will have found success.

## **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**TEMPLE COLLEGE



### **MIKE HEIN**

My primary aim is to meet students where they are and help them get to where they want to go. Insatiably curious and an aspiring generalist, I work to curate resources and facilitate skill building for students from myriad disciplines. I encourage educators to be gateways, not gatekeepers.



### **EDGAR JUAREZ**

I would like to thank my Team at AEL. This award would have not been possible without you!



### **CHRISTOPHER KREJCI**

Trust students. Trust that students want to learn. Trust that students are trying their best given their individual circumstances. Trust students even when they have not demonstrated that they "deserve to be trusted." Trusting students does not take time or preparation, but it does have an impact.



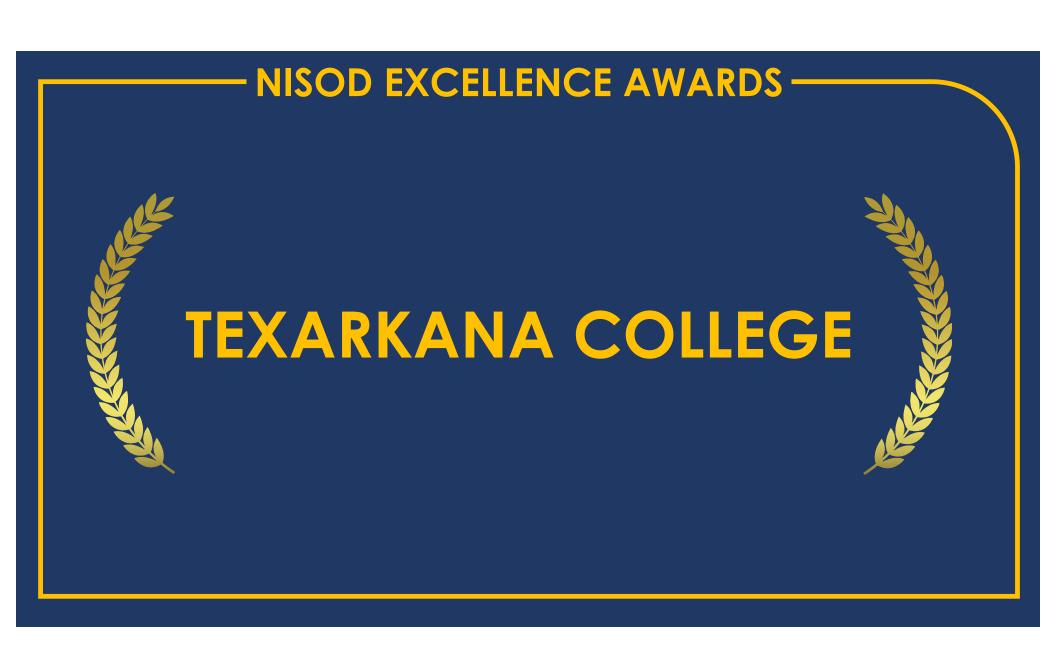
### **ROSEMARY LAWS**

Inspired by Mother Teresa, "Come Be My Light." We are the students' "light." Their light of hope, light of guidance, light of inspiration, light of courage and strength to continue and fulfill their dream. Be their LIGHT! Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier.



### **ISAAC MASONER**

I am humbled to be honored by this award. Thank you for those that nominated me. Seeing the confidence of my students grow and their excitement over the possibilities available to them regularly energizes me. We are in such an amazing position to influence and help so many. I am grateful to get to be in this role.





### **PHYLLIS DEESE**

The worth of a community college to its community is immeasurable because we can provide affordable access to higher education and training to students that prepares them for a successful career path. What we do matters!

**TEXARKANA COLLEGE** 



### MARK A. STOREY

I choose to teach so I can serve others in a fundamental and transformative way. Teaching allows me the opportunity to enable others to realize that they can achieve what they did not think could happen. Successful teaching gives others a true chance to develop hope in themselves.

**TEXARKANA COLLEGE** 

## UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT BATESVILLE



### **ANDREW SEELY**

Teaching is a privilege. It requires devotion, empathy, and adaptability. Facilitating learning is one of the greatest joys of my life, and I approach each day as a new opportunity. Meet students where they are and discuss their passions and they will teach you as much as you teach them.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT BATESVILLE

# **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**VERNON COLLEGE



### SHELLI PENDLETON

I strive to think about the student's view when creating a course. As a nursing faculty, I recognize that I am teaching future nurses and want them to be safe, critical, and professional. The student is the future. The lessons learned will ripple across their lives.

**VERNON COLLEGE** 





### **COCOAT. DIXON**

"The fundamental role of a teacher is not to deliver information; it is to guide the social process of learning. The job of a teacher is to inspire, to challenge, to excite their students to want to learn." I carry this motto into my classroom and beyond.



### **BRITTANY HOCHSTAETTER**

When I see a student in need of a smile, encouragement, or directions to a food pantry, I feel most connected to our work. I've traveled the world through the stories of my students, expanding my empathy and increasing motivation to educate well. I'm grateful for the humanity of our work.



### **ISABELLE ODJAGHIAN**

Education is based on building blocks, each course applying what was learned previously and expanding upon it. Hands-on projects reflecting problem-solving skills and feedback from professionals as jurors or through field trips are important. Mentoring students is primordial to me; continuously improving my teaching style and implementing students' suggestions when appropriate.



### **CARLA OSBORNE**

Watching a student at the start of their academic journey grow in confidence and apply themselves then segue into the workforce and realize their potential is rewarding. Some students are carrying burdens such as health issues and personal losses, but they keep moving forward. I find that motivational and inspiring.



### THOMAS SKIBINSKI

Student success is the motivation that keeps my engine running. Helping students achieve their goals brings great joy everyday at Wake Technical Community College. One word my family and I use that I have incorporated in the classroom is "perseverance." We have to persevere to achieve our successes.

### **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-WAYNE COUNTY** COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



#### **VICTOR WHEELER**

Here at Wayne County Community College District, we serve a unique population of awesome students who make it an awesome experience of providing the highest level of academic instruction and foundational learning to set our students on the pathway to successful careers to enhance our communities. I am blessed to assist them along the way.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



# WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE





#### **DONNA HANKS**

Coaching, mentoring, and leading people to nurture a version of themselves they didn't know was possible is a passion of mine. Investing in people and revealing their strengths makes all of us better. I'm privileged that WDTC has allowed me to help with this, one employee, one school, and one community at a time.

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



## **DEBBIE TOMS**

Data drives decisions. Not only do I love data, but I love providing data to colleagues so they can make informed decisions. Know your strengths and use your strengths to help others.

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE





#### **GABRIELLA MCDERMOTT**

A great reward of educating nursing students is to learn about the adversity in their lives and how they overcame it. I get to see their hard work being put into practice at the bedside. These students inspire me to be a better teacher so I can help other students yet to come.

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



#### **SCOTT SWARD**

Albert Einstein once said, "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." Fear of making a mistake is not failure, but simply a step towards the doorway to success. Learning is filled with mistakes; we need to encourage students to accept them and move forward.

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE





#### PETER ANDERSON

I am a purveyor of the world's mystery in a digestible way with a compassionate mindset; it is what I love to do. To educate and inspire, making the world less ignorant even if it is only in a small way, makes it a better place.

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE



#### **GARY BONEWALD**

Being a paramedic and an EMS educator is the best of both worlds. I have educated many EMS professionals over my tenure. The true impact is when those I have assisted in their educational process respond to an emergency and make the difference in the patients' outcomes.

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE



#### J.B. GROVES

I was fortunate to attend one of the seven top training and development colleges in the United States and later become a certified training professional. These skills, as well as fifty years in the information technology field, allow me to apply an andragogy-based transfer of knowledge to a diverse population of junior college students.

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

# **NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS-**YAVAPAI COLLEGE



#### **MEGHAN PAQUETTE**

Carl Sanderson said, "There will be many challenges ahead, and I am looking forward to them." Every day is a chance to connect with students and give them the opportunities to change their lives. From the classroom to support programs, working with students to overcome challenges and succeed is the greatest privilege.

YAVAPAI COLLEGE



## **PHILIP REID**

I believe that teaching is all about giving. As an educator, you are giving your time and expertise to someone who will hopefully absorb what you have to impart and make their lives better for having learned what you taught.

YAVAPAI COLLEGE







#### LYDIA HALL

I am deeply inspired and motivated by the students that we serve. Seeing students that come in with so many identified obstacles questioning their "purpose" at the point of admission to watching them walk across the stage at commencement. Literally visualizing all the hurdles they've overcome to reach their goals is priceless.



#### TRACY HUDSON

Providing resources to students is at the center of what we do. Our goal of maximizing student success drives every decision we make. It's a focus that makes our work rewarding and worthwhile and one that I've been honored to be a part of at York Technical College.



#### **DANIEL PAYSEUR**

Vince Lombardi once said "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." The chase then is the consistent effort to be perfect in the mundane in order to establish a stack of undeniable proof of excellence.



#### **CASSANDRA VERARDI**

As a first-generation student who only accomplished her educational goals because of the support of staff at her college, I strive to provide that same level of support and care for the students I now connect with each day through grace, gratitude, and grit.