



The Teaching and Creativity Center congratulates the following colleagues for being nominated for Kudos for Educational Excellence! Thank you for all that you do. Nominations in alphabetical order, with student nominations first followed by [faculty and staff nominations](#).

Nominated by Students

Mary Cameron (Mathematics)

Mary Cameron is a skilled and dedicated professor. She shows care for her students' success by offering detailed and speedy feedback on assignments, being accessible for questions, and being a responsive communicator. Her experience in teaching shows as she can deliver the most tedious of content with a captivating voice or a helpful visual. Her high level of excellence as a professor should be recognized by the MCC community. She creates an invaluable alchemy from combining her brilliance and skill in teaching.

April Daniels (ESOL & Transitional Studies)

Professor Daniels' classes were characterized by kindness. Thank you for the excellent and valuable classes (ENG 101 and TRS 099).

Mary DiSano (Chemistry & Geology)

Professor DiSano is a very caring and supportive professor. Learning chemistry via Zoom is not ideal, but she did her best to make it a good experience for her students and always provided support when needed.

Daniel Dubois (Athletics)

Coach Dubois is a great, easy-going guy. He did a great job not only teaching his students essential life-saving skills, but he also put an effort to connect with his students and support them, which was greatly appreciated by us all.

Paul Emerick (Biology)

Professor Emerick is a very kind and supportive person. He goes above and beyond to help his students. We appreciate your hard work.

Steven Farrington (World Languages)

Professor Farrington has been a kind and encouraging professor this past semester. He really cares about his students, and it shows in every class. He keeps our classes fun with many "dad jokes" and anecdotes while also making sure we understand the complexities of the French language. I wanted to share my thanks to him and make sure he was recognized for all his help this spring.

Sandra Kinel (Economics)

Sandra is the most selfless person I know. She has been a role model to me in my development. By tradition, we are taught to think of ourselves first. Sandra is an oasis of kindness, honesty, and thoughtfulness in a country dry of these traditional values. I aspire to be more like her every day. She will undoubtedly continue to inspire people who favor traditional manners. Treasure her, she is rare, sublime in nature, and most impactful to those who drift!

Sherri Kurtz (Dental Studies)

I want to recognize Professor Kurtz for her dedication to all of her students. She goes above and beyond for the program and it is obvious how much she genuinely cares about each student. She is an incredible lecturer, an amazing clinical instructor, and volunteers her time to act as the SADHA advisor. I appreciate all her time and generosity. Thank you so much Professor Kurtz!!! 😊

Lori Laco-Schiano (Health Professions)

Lori is a wonderful, intelligent, and caring person. Everyday I am inspired by her. I am so glad to have had her as a teacher over the last couple years and I will truly miss seeing her everyday.

Jonathan Little (Chemistry & Geology)

Professor Little has been nothing less than supportive and motivational throughout the course of this semester. He has been very present every step of the way and has made learning about GIS fun and educational. I didn't realize how important Geographic Information Systems were to the modern day infrastructure of society. I wish him all the best moving forward and he's a professor I will always remember, thank you!

David Peterson (Mathematics tutoring)

David has been an amazing asset to MCC as a math tutor. His expert knowledge and experienced approach enables him to make many levels accessible to students. His excitement for math goes beyond his time with students and he has even developed an online resource to answer math questions. He is kind and patient, and always waits to see that true learning is occurring while he assists with course content. He is masterful in his ability to sense when frustration is occurring and intervenes with a gentle prompt to keep students learning their best!

Chloe Vazzana (Student Life and Leadership)

Two nominations!

Chloe has a remarkable spirit! She is one of a kind, a true conqueror! She expresses what she feels freely, I admire her for her ability to be bold when needed. Her laugh rings true and deep, I know she means it, and her presence is in the moment. I am not alone in my sentiments for Chloe, at 30 years young she is a true LEADER. I have only had good interactions with Chloe because I know better than to get on her bad side. I trust and love Chloe because she has a good heart. She deserves the best for herself and her family!

Chloe is an amazing woman. She empowers me to keep going in school and always pushes me for success. She is an amazing person and has been here for me since the start of this semester. She always

checks up on me and always asks if I need help with anything. She always takes time out of her day to help me on assignments, even though she doesn't need to do that. She always is willing [to] lend a helping [hand]; she even takes her lunch time to do this. She is an amazing person to talk to 'cause she always listens and gives great advice. I want to nominate her today because she one of the many persons who has done the most for my success and I am very lucky to have met her. I don't ever want to lose her, she's the best!

Nominated by Faculty and Staff

The African American Affinity Group

I want to thank 3AG for being a safe space this year as we navigate a triple pandemic. This space has helped keep me together with the dynamic workshops, beautiful fellowship, and thoughtful engagement. Thank you all!!!!!!

Becky Babcock (Schools @ MCC)

For all of her work representing us on faculty senate. SCAA has had an enormous amount of work recently, from a presidential search to this proposed reorg, and Becky has been an enormous advocate for the faculty and staff of MCC.

Amy Betti (ESOL & Transitional Studies)

I would like to recognize Amy Betti in the ESOL/TRS Department for educational excellence. Amy is a highly effective and student-centered teacher. She is open to new ideas, teaching strategies, and educational technology in order to educate students to the best of her ability. Throughout the pandemic, Amy has continued to maintain an engaging learning environment for her students by employing innovative and effective digital learning tools. Maintaining such an educational environment is not an easy feat, especially when teaching ESOL classes in pronunciation fully online. But Amy has nailed it. With her warm demeanor and positive, supportive online presence, she motivates students to learn and encourages them to succeed. Amy is an exemplar of educational excellence.

Marsha Bower (Dental Studies)

Marsha has worked tirelessly throughout the last 18 months since she took over the DS PD position. Summer 2021 included the addition of the role of HP Chair. Completing both tasks may seem daunting to some, but Marsha has carried both roles well. She has completed many tasks within a short timeframe, and is always thinking of the next project/goal.

Renee Dimino (ESOL & Transitional Studies)

For successfully finishing out her time as SUNY Guided Pathways Project Director. It is truly amazing that Renee is talented enough to not only help us at MCC with our student success work, but to figure out how to share that expertise with other colleges across the state. Renee should be recognized for all of the work she has done over the past few years on this important initiative.

Joshua Deni (Information & Computer Technology)

Josh is the Technical Assistant for both the ICT and the Engineering Technologies departments. He has always worked diligently with Jeff, our ICT Chair, to set up new lab equipment for CPT classes. Thanks to Josh's setup of MCC NetLab, students save up to \$70 on the lab access fee, for CPT-220, for example. Recently, Josh has learned how to use the UR3 robot arm, which ICT just got, and set up an introductory lab on using the UR3 with particular attention to safety. Last week, Josh came to CPT-114 class and showed students how to teach the UR3 robot to move blocks from a plate to the conveyor. Students had a great time learning and doing the lab Josh had designed. And Josh is always responsive to emails and cheerful. Thank you, Josh!!

Marybeth Donnelly (Curriculum & Program Development)

Always thinking of ways to improve the student experience using Degree Works and for sharing her extensive knowledge with her colleagues.

ESOL Adjunct Faculty

The ESOL adjunct faculty, Elizabeth Ahern, Edgar Ballestas, Amy Betti, Bridget Dee, Haj Marigh, Peggy Osenbach, Nicole Piersall, Marjorie Rolleston, and Judy Tomkinson are outstanding educators, advocates, and colleagues. They all go above and beyond to support our refugee and immigrant students. Students like ESOL classes because they are learning lot, and they belong. Thank you for your dedication and professionalism.

The FA Negotiations Group

The work that you all are doing for your colleagues does not go unrecognized. Thank you for all you do to represent us!

Peter Francione (Law and Criminal Justice)

Peter helped me with some of the technical points in Blackboard as he had taught online before the pandemic. He was always available to answer questions and give suggestions. He has been working in the Learning Communities for CRJ students, and now he is working on enrolling new students. He was the point person for his department's evaluation. His focus is student success.

Andrea Gilbert (Virtual Campus)

Andrea has been at the forefront of the changes MCC has gone through & will continue to go through during COVID & beyond. Helping faculty navigate learning to teach fully on-line, or implementing Brightspace, Andrea is always cheerful & professional, though most days she does not even have time to take her lunch. She is, to me, the MVP of the school during this crucial period of change in our college.

Lastly, a shout-out to her entire department for being her great team & putting up with me people like me!

Tokeya Graham (English & Philosophy)

I want to recognize Dr. Tokeya Graham for the completion of her doctorate studies at the U of R, while successfully (and with excellence) serving MCC students in the facilitation of English instruction (using a student-centered approach) and supporting them to increase their chances of being academically successful! KUDOS, you are amazing!!!

Cynthia Clark Inman (Human Resources)

Ms. Cynthia is very knowledgeable in her job. She is always helpful and smiling when you enter the HR office. She makes you feel welcomed each and every time you enter their office. Sometimes your questions may be sensitive, but she always makes you feel as if you are talking to a family member. In a world that is so troubling, we need this type of personality.

Gary Johnson (Schools @MCC)

Two nominations!

Gary Johnson is Director of the Schools@MCC. Leadership, several qualities I have experienced and witnessed from Gary. He demonstrates integrity, accountability, empathy, humility, resilience, vision, influence, and positivity. When I consider what makes a leader, Gary exemplifies the qualities mentioned and more. Gary empowers, trusts, and creates a positive atmosphere of inspiration with staff despite obstacles that ensue from time to time. He is a great listener, responsive to feedback, and adheres to recommendations to better direct the guided pathways schools model for student retention and success. As a director, Gary believes in rolling up his sleeves to get the job done and assist his team and colleagues across the campus in whatever way. The phrase "there is no I in we" represents the person. Kudos to Gary Johnson, an inspiring leader, remarkable professional, and wonderful individual.

Gary is laser focused on student success. He is a champion of using the Guided Pathways framework as it is designed - to create systems that help students reach their educational, career and professional goals. He is an amazing colleague who can be relied on for collaboration, guidance, expertise and help with student issues. He is a pleasure to work with!

Darren Kwiatkowski (MCC Bookstore)

Darren is always very helpful and knowledgeable in the textbook ordering process. It can be a tricky process, and he is always patient and efficient.

Caridad Rosario Mathieu (Nursing)

Assistant Professor Rosario Mathieu has been working hard on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the nursing department, and in particular with first semester of nursing students. The students respond well to, and find her extremely approachable. She encourages them to have informative and tough conversations about healthcare and cultural disparities. She is a great resource to our students and continues to educate the faculty as well as she incorporates new information into the curriculum.

Her passion for the multiple DS programs is evident and it is exciting to think about our future opportunities.

Lori Moses (Visual & Performing Arts)

As the Visual and Performing Arts department chair, Lori Moses has worked tirelessly to help her colleagues and students succeed for the past 12 years. Thank you and Kudos to Lori Moses!

Carly O'Keefe (Global Education & International Services)

Holding it down for our international students! Carly is a super woman who is doing the work of several people, all out of a desire to help our students succeed.

Rebecca Mack (Advisement and Transfer)

For her innovative ways of making transfer information more accessible to our students. The resources that Rebecca maintains are extensive, and without her hard work it would be much more difficult to advise our students effectively.

Eileen Radigan (Education & Human Services)

Two nominations!

Eileen is a champion for MCC students and the Downtown Campus. She sits on a variety of committees to make sure the students, faculty and staff in her department and Downtown Campus get their voice heard, and appropriate and equal services are provided. She also works tirelessly as department chair and faculty member teaching both Education and Human Services courses.

Eileen works tirelessly to provide the best education for her students, and direction to faculty and staff in her department. She serves on many committees to advocate for equal services at the Downtown Campus. She is well respected within the MCC and Education & Human Services communities, always willing to collaborate with internal and external colleagues.

Jessica Saltzberg (ESOL & Transitional Studies)

She works tirelessly to help our students/faculty in so many ways! I don't know what we'd do without her endless support. So much gratitude.

Erin Strobl (Biology)

Erin is very generous with her time and has helped many colleagues in many ways. She was especially awesome during the pandemic when many of us struggled with teaching technology like Blackboard and Zoom. She is always willing to help and is always extremely nice about doing so. I know that her students appreciate her positive attitude and patience as much as her peers.

John Troy (EDIWS)

I would like to thank John Troy for the amount of times he has put into the launch of the FWD Center. The FWD Center has been an MCC conversation for almost 8 years and is finally coming to realization to help our area workforce. It will surely be a game changer in the region. Its successful launch could have not come without his tireless efforts to ensure the facility, staff, programming and leadership involved in the center to make this a success. He's devoted a great amount of time and energy to help secure future funding through grants for the college to equip the facility with innovative technology and also critical

staff members. He has been a great team player for EDIWS and multiple divisional staff members would just like to simply say Thank You.

Dana Voldan-Curry (Schools @MCC)

For jumping in right away to a new role and bringing immense value to our team. Dana has picked up on her new role so quickly and is always looking for new and creative ways to increase student success.

Matthew Williams (Mathematics)

I want to send KUDOS to Matthew Williams, for his excellent work in facilitating the academic learning/understanding of students in the area of mathematics. He is caring, methodical and passionate about his craft and dedicated to the academic success of all students, but in particular to those students from underserved communities. His enthusiasm for understanding mathematics and wanting others to do the same is contagious!!

Bobby Wright & Rachel Santiago (Mathematics)

Math professors Bobby Wright and Rachel Santiago deserve to be recognized for their welcoming, supportive classroom communities. ESOL students request them by name. Students can feel intimidated by math, but not with these two. They care and the students know it.

Rosanna C. Yule (Community Relations)

Kudos to Rosanna Yule, retiring director of Community Relations, for her unfailing guidance and countless advice she has imparted to me over the past few months and throughout my MCC career - many of these experiences have stuck with me and shaped me as a leader. I've been fortunate to learn the trade from Rosanna, one of the most talented, respected professionals at MCC and within SUNY. Her deep knowledge and multifaceted skills, valuable insight and intuition, effective leadership and commitment to excellence have played a significant role in maintaining and advancing the College's reputation. In 2008, when she served as assistant director, I was a new hire. Nearly every assignment I received for the first time during the first few years, she was my mentor. She ensured I grew into my position with a solid foundation, always taking the time to answer my many questions and offer a perspective on communication strategies. Over the years, particularly as our roles expanded, I could always count on her guidance, wisdom and support when I needed it most to help me see an elaborate project through to completion. Since 2019, after our department underwent restructuring and staffing changes, we have become inseparable partners. I'm deeply grateful to Rosanna for her dedication to MCC for the past two decades, her leadership, commitment to excellence, caring and generous spirit, and numerous contributions to the College. Thank you for being my mentor and work sister.