



December 2021 Kudos

Entries are organized into two sections (from students and from [colleagues](#)), and each section is arranged alphabetically by first name/word.

From Students

Edgar Ballestas [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Thanks to professor Ballestas’s constant support and guidance I was able to take the ESL 201 challenge exam. For this reason, I want to send kudos to him and a big thank you. Professor Ballestas always goes above and beyond for his students. He is a great professor, and I would love to have the pleasure to take other English classes with him as my professor.”

Kim Ross [Student Success Coach]

“I would like to thank Ms. Kim Ross, for all her help. She has really inspired me to push through my courses. She has been patient and willing to answer any questions to the best of her ability; no matter how silly. When I felt overwhelmed she was easy to talk to. She has been kind enough to walk me through this process and was stayed at my pace and for that, I am extremely grateful. She is very knowledgeable and overall an awesome person. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to encounter such a wonderfully spirited person.”

Pamela Fornieri [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Thanks to Professor Fornieri’s constant support and guidance I was able to take the ESL 201 challenge exam. For this reason, I want to send kudos to her and a big thank you. Professor Fornieri is very charismatic and a very supportive teacher. She goes above and beyond to help her students and I would love to have the pleasure to take other English classes with her as my professor.”

Amanda Rampe [Schools@MCC]

“Amanda set up a series of Zoom training sessions for Department Chairs and Secretaries on Workload, Finding Reports in Webfocus/Argos/eprint and other necessary topics. She is very knowledgeable and patient with anyone that has questions, and has set up a wide variety of resources. She is a true gem, and MCC is lucky to have her expertise.”

Amy Burns [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Amy Burns is an excellent mathematician, a dedicated teacher, and a stellar colleague. Like many of her MCC peers, this semester she is teaching various combinations of in-person, online, and Zoom classes, and she meets with one particular student nearly every day during her office hours. Regardless of whether she is teaching a whole class or working with students one-on-one, Amy takes a developmental approach and demonstrates remarkable patience and professionalism. She artfully assists the department in many ways including coordinating adjuncts, serving as an active member on several committees, and working across divisions to develop and refine curriculum that meets the needs of MCC's diverse student population. Kudos to Amy Burns!”

Andrew Eggleston [Learning Resources]

“Through the years, Andrew has been assisting the students with computer usage. He has resolved some tough problems with the student's laptops and the school computers. If there is ever a road block to a student's ability to utilize technology, Andy is the person that can resolve many things both for students and the faculty/staff. I have watched him take control of the Learning Resource Department and become a good leader and administrator for the goal of student success. Andy has on occasion, gone above and beyond to help a student in need and is someone that I am fortunate to know while working here at MCC. Andy is good at his job, he has amazing knowledge of technology and he has a kind spirit.”

Audrey Shafer [Nursing]

“Her focus is always on student success and identifying strategies that will guide and assist students in their nursing course to reaching that goal of graduation.”

Donna Burke [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Donna Burke's energy and enthusiasm are so contagious that she inspires students to go above and beyond the minimum requirements to reach their potential and truly shine. She acknowledges each student's special contributions to her classes, meets them where they are, and supports them as they move towards where they need to be. Her classes are engaging and informative, and her laughter is contagious. Donna's mindful approach to life enriches not only students, but her colleagues as well. Her weekly meditation sessions are meaningful, her committee work is creative, and her long-time presence at MCC is absolutely priceless.”

Jay Szymanski [Chemistry & Geosciences]

“Jay conceptualized a really brilliant video to commemorate the TCC's 20th anniversary and the Winter Teaching Institute. His initiative and creative planning were impressive.”

Jim McCusker [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Stay close. That's what Jim McCusker writes in his emails to colleagues and students, and he truly means it. Stay close, he says to his current and former students, as he helps them through their writing assignments, budgeting challenges, and life struggles. Stay close, he says, as he meets with them before and after class, during office hours, and at coffee shops (his treat, always). Stay close, he says to his colleagues, as he openly shares his teaching successes, struggles, and materials. Stay close, he says, during the monthly salons he facilitates for ALP faculty to confidentially share what's going on in their classrooms. Jim McCusker deserves kudos for the unwavering support he provides while keeping us all close.”

Judi Salsburg Taylor [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Have you guys checked out Professor Judi Salsburg Taylor's website, [The Purposeful Prof](#)? If you haven't seen it yet, it's well worth it to spend some of your time exploring the website's many resources for teaching and learning. You'll enjoy viewing short and informative videos by current and former MCC professors from across the disciplines, reading relevant research applicable to each of MCC's Schools, and discovering approaches to help MCC students succeed. The cartoons are funny too!”

Judy Wilson [Nursing]

“Judy is constantly creating new innovative strategies to teach nursing students disease process and how to safely care for a patient.”

Meghan Glaser [ESOL & Transitional Studies]

“Meghan Glaser is an excellent, dedicated teacher who is highly regarded by students and faculty alike. She clearly communicates the high standards for her courses, and then she provides students with clear road maps, signposts, and untiring support that enable them to reach the high expectations she holds for each and every one of them. Because students success is her highest priority, Meghan freely shares her work and assignments with colleagues, thoughtfully chairs and serves on committees, and constantly develops herself personally and professionally. Meghan Glaser is a priceless asset to all of MCC's students and employees.”

Pat Dano [Health and Physical Education]

“Pat Dano has shown her terrific dedication to MCC and to MCC students by being creative. Although she recently had a total knee replacement, Pat figured out a way to continue teaching our safety coursework (which requires getting on your knees for CPR skills). Pat got creative and found a table that was a height that would allow her to continue teaching and demonstrating safety skills despite healing from her total knee replacement!”

Rebecca Horwitz [Psychology]

“Rebecca Horwitz is our department chair. Throughout the crazy pandemic months, she did an excellent job of keeping everyone informed, of advocating for us, and of maintaining a calm demeanor. She has been a terrific leader.”

Stacey Lautenslager [Information & Computer Technologies]

“Stacey is the only full-time faculty in OFT and has kept the department going for several years. She works well with the department chair and ensures the program is reflective of the community's needs, engages adjuncts in developing new ways to deliver curriculum, [and] creates a flexible environment to meet student needs as well.”

The Virtual Campus [Instructional Technologies]

“The entire Virtual Campus folks are worth their weight in gold. They've helped me out in an emergency as well as helped me to strengthen my Blackboard classrooms and prep for the migration to the Brightspace LMS. They are so knowledgeable and open to new ideas and strategies!”