

2021 Community Service Award

Our Associate Dean (Tina Peterman) used the following script to present me with the 2021 College of Education Community Service Award. I had been nominated by the faculty team I lead in the elementary Graduate Teacher Education Program.

The Community Service Award is given in recognition of a faculty or staff member, or current student who exemplifies the COE's mission by engaging in visionary thinking and transformative practices within schools and communities. This year's award goes to Dot McElhone, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction.

I think we all know that Dot goes above and beyond to lead GTEP Elementary. This past year, in particular, she led efforts to design a future undergraduate major that focuses on teacher preparation with a centralized Anti-Bias Anti-Racism approach. She worked with university and community partners to ensure the vision is just and equitable and that the program is co-constructed with collaboration and integrity. Here are some of the things her colleagues wrote:

- Honestly, we would be LOST without her leadership and yet she remains so humble.
- She offers inspiring and innovative leadership, balancing time for community building and critical equity work with program logistics that keep us functioning.
- Dot always takes initiative to curb the amount of work faculty underneath her have to complete and is a staunch advocate for our self-care and time.
- She is ALWAYS willing to lend an ear and offer sound advice. She is caring and compassionate.
- She is smart *and* funny.
- She is the "breath of fresh-air " that has kept us going this year...through a pandemic, online teaching and learning, the profound loss of a dear colleague, and student resistance.
- Dot has given a decade of service to the COE and has helped chart GTEP Elementary (among her many other duties) through some unprecedented storms and I can't imagine us surviving these waves without her as our captain.

Dot is truly someone who defies airplane regulations and puts on other people's oxygen

masks before her own. Yet, so much of her work is "behind the scenes" and unrewarded. Please join me in a round of virtual applause to recognize our colleague Dot for this Community Service Award.