

PATRICK BURNETT
NOMINATOR: Theresa Allyn

Patrick is a fantastic teacher that makes learning fun. He has come to my EDCAP 96 class to share about the STEM program. He is one of the best volunteer speakers we have. The students leave excited about math and physics and feeling that they could learn math even if they feel they are presently weak in their math skills. His passion for teaching and his subject is contagious. He is a great asset to our school and his willingness to share beyond his department both in the High School Completion Program and ABE/GED is a true gift.

CHRIS SZAREK
NOMINATOR: Susie Beresford

Chris Szarek, Director of the Veterans Resource Center, is a driven and hardworking employee with a passion for student veterans. His passion shines when he's around students. Our Veterans Campaign Steering Committee gets the pleasure of working with someone who's got the students best interest at heart. When Chris talks about the VRC, he speaks with so much pride about what our campus has to offer to veterans. Chris will welcome you with a warm cup of coffee when you tour of the center. When we are given things to do to move the campaign along, Chris is the first to say, "I've got answers for you". Being a veteran himself, he knows the difficulties of re-engaging back into the civilian lifestyle. He's been faced with his own challenges and overcome them. He is a fantastic addition to the VRC and to EdCC as a whole. *Bravo, Chris! I salute you and am proud to say I work with you!*

CHERYL JENEY
NOMINATOR: Susan Park

Cheryl Jeney consistently goes above and beyond to provide excellent service to clients and guests. She is always looking for ways to make things better including streamlining processes and devising better systems. She is supremely reliable. She has volunteered on so many projects to bring the Community College and the Conference Center to the attention of the Edmonds community with the latest being her award-winning creation for a local competition. She has been providing this stellar level of service for well over a decade!

JOSEPH VESPUCCI
NOMINATOR: Rita Smart

I just want to share with all of you of how happy I am to have Joseph Vespucci working for us at the Helpdesk for 2 years this upcoming January 2015. He is a diligent, hard-working, responsible and reliable student-staff member. He's always able to handle a situation in a calm and collected manner. I can give him a project and know that he will be able to tackle the task and respond to the clients with excellent customer service. I often receive AMAZING & AWESOME feedback from clients that work with him. Our clients really appreciate his style of customer service, follow through and service with a smile. Joseph never lets a task get him down, and he thrives on finding the solution. Thank you, Joseph, for being a shining star in our Help Desk. BRAVO!!

DEBBIE KUHLMANN
NOMINATORS: Stephanie Bevans and Kari Guedea

Debbie Kuhlmann has written an open source textbook for the Business English course in the BSTEC department. Her textbook is saving students hundreds of dollars each quarter, and it makes a difficult subject enjoyable and easy to understand. Debbie put much time and effort into this project, and we are very grateful for her dedication and commitment to excellence!

SUSAN SIMONS
NOMINATOR: Debbie Kuhlmann

This spring I wrote a new grammar textbook for all Business English classes in the Business Information Technology Department. On her own time, Susan edited every single page of the book. She wanted the book to be the best it could be. Susan's extensive editing and proofreading polished the book immeasurably. Based on her editing notes, it is clear that she read every single word on every single page of the 118-page textbook. She checked for spelling errors, grammar errors, and content errors. She found

errors that Microsoft Word and Google did not catch when the document was spell checked. The book is monumentally better because of her editing and proofreading. I cannot thank her enough for all of her hard work on this project.

AARON MODICA

NOMINATOR: Charlie Thompson

Aaron Modica, CATCH Academic Advisor/Student Retention Specialist, has demonstrated outstanding skill and dedication to the mission of CATCH and Edmonds Community College, to transform lives.

The lives of students in poverty are often in chaos as they move from crisis to crisis. Aaron has been successful in helping more of them stay engaged and goal oriented, focused on a better future for themselves and their families. He uses the crisis moments as opportunity to teach problem-solving skills and leads the student to take more control of their life.

His genuine interest and care for each individual shines through. He walks them through the multitude of choices they actually have when they look beyond the foundation that CATCH gives.

He is an outstanding co-worker, always open to feedback and seeking to improve his practice and build community, not only in the CATCH program, but also in our college community. He has improved our program's coordination with EdCC academic advising and counseling services and is a volunteer in the Trident Jumpstart student orientations and other student success committees.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to introduce a returning student to our current cohort as they prepared to move into our healthcare core coursework. This student would have been written off by others. In her first attempt in CATCH she did not always show up, missed too many assignments and was quick to say she just couldn't do it. Everything seemed to get in the way, from health issues, to childcare, to transportation. Sometimes she did not even appear to care. Aaron and our faculty kept encouraging her, even offering some makeup work to help her succeed. However, she failed her courses, returned the loaned computer and left the program.

Aaron kept in contact. He continued to talk with her about why things didn't work, showing confidence in her ability, understanding her life situation but also directing her to take responsibility beyond all of the troubles. He kept the goal of a better future out there. It has taken more than six months for her to see herself succeeding. It was the fear of failure as she had experienced too often in the past that led to a feeling of, "what does it matter, it isn't going to work out anyway."

She was pretty timid as she came into the class again yesterday, but also smiling as she sat in the front row. She wants to transform her life. Thank you, Aaron, for doing your job so well.

CHRISTINE KOBAYASHI, JOHNETTA MOORE, MINH CARRICO

NOMINATOR: Gretchen Copeland

Christine Kobayashi of EAP/ International Education
Johnetta Moore, EdCC Librarian
Minh Carrico, who teaches Visual Communications

Their collaborative effort produced (Spring, 2014) one of the most valuable resources I have seen at EdCC—an online guide for faculty titled "Faculty Support for Instruction of ESL Students."

First, Christine did something many of us wish we could---she "went back to school," in a sense, to review current research on educating non-native speakers of English. She found this challenging and rewarding, and it produced wondrous results. The guide's tips for classroom support, the material on helping students understand plagiarism, and the resources for reading and writing, continue to benefit our instructors and students.

Second, Johnetta notes that finding the time to meet and work on the project, amidst all their other duties, was a challenge, but that the team was "jazzed" to see the project through to completion. We are all familiar with Johnetta's amazing energy.

Third, we must recognize the importance of the visual aspect of a project like this. Grabbing the eyes of the user is essential. Minh led his Visual Communications 245 students through the "real world" lessons of creating images and design layouts, planning photography shoots, organizing models, and editing and inserting images into the online banner.

MARCOS VALLE**NOMINATOR: Karen Fenner**

Marcos Valle has been a remarkable member of the ABE ESL department for his continuing contributions above and beyond the norm, as well as his thoughtful, friendly support for colleagues, students, and interns alike. This quarter, in addition to his full-time load of classes, he took on two additional classes due to unexpected overloads or lack of teachers in the Division at a stressful beginning of the year. He also chairs my Tenure committee and serves on various other committees. As we recently lost a Department Head, he volunteered to lighten the burden of the new, shared Department Head position by offering to write up a large portion of the Simple Plan for our department. When one instructor was celebrating a milestone birthday and another was struggling with difficult family circumstances, he suggested cards, cake, and flowers to show our support for our colleagues. I know there are other things he has done to contribute to the campus that I just don't know about. Through his friendly attitude and devoted work ethic, he mentors new teachers and provides a warm example to us all of a social and helpful colleague.

MAUREEN LITTLE, LARRY BRESLAUER, VIKTORIYA MOORE, JESSIE GOODPASTER**Nominator: Kanchana Kularatne**

I want to nominate the following individuals for a BRAVO award for their stupendous effort and commitment during the Fall 2014 Welcome Orientation Week (WOW) activities.

Maureen Little, Advising Manager International High School Completion (IHSC), Larry Breslau, Pre-college Instructor, Viktoriya Moore, IHSC Program Assistant, and Jessie Goodpaster, IHSC Program Coordinator, who worked relentlessly and tirelessly to help welcome, orient and register over 200 new international students.

- Maureen's vision as the program manager has always guided us with making our program more and more dynamic. But this time, her vision enabled us to prepare for over 120 students -- the largest group of new international high school students at EdCC -- in its entire history.
- Larry has always been an awesome instructor, but this fall, he joined us with orientation and advising students. His friendly demeanor and amazing sense of humor was exactly what we needed to keep all our students entertained and engaged.
- Without Viktoriya, our "Transcript Queen", and her beyond excellent tracking and record-keeping methods, graduating our students in a timely manner would only be a dream.
- Jessie's very first day working with us was on the second day of orientation, and her task was to welcome over about 150 students and collect all their paperwork. Not really having any idea of what her job would entail, Jessie stepped right in and maintained a smile throughout the entire week. (It's November, and she is still with us 😊)

Needless to say, this task of orienting, testing, collecting transcripts & documentation and registering over 150 international students in such a short period of time is an overwhelming task. But without this group of amazing people and their absolute love and dedication for the work they do, none of this would be possible.

Thank you and BRAVO... Maureen, Larry, Viktoriya and Jessie for helping us create history and for all your hard work every single day!!