2012 - 2013 Distinguished Ranks – Community Colleges

Distinguished Teaching Professorship

- Joanna B. Chrzanowski – In her 32-year career at Jefferson Community College, Dr. Chrzanowski’s focus has always been on teaching. She cares intensely about students and their success as writers, future professionals, and people. Her teaching is imbued with the constructivist principles and manifests itself in student-centered and active learning, resulting in student-generated knowledge. Her teaching innovations have kept her instruction vibrant. From the traditional classroom and computer lab to hybrid and online courses, learning communities and college success classes, Phi Theta Kappa students, SUNY and New York State have recognized Dr. Chrzanowski for her excellence in teaching. Her numerous curricular innovations at the course and program levels along with founding and restructuring the English Department, including creation of two English Concentrations: Creative Writing and Literature, are her crowning achievements. Although she has vast stores of energy to give to her students and the College, Dr. Chrzanowski extends the same guidance and enthusiasm in mentoring her young colleagues, volunteering in the community, presenting at conferences, and developing instructional materials.

- Elizabeth Gaffney – Dr. Gaffney is a Westchester Community College Professor of English, and she has been a member of the faculty for over twenty years and is a key member of her department, which describes her as a superb teacher, an excellent poet and a fine scholar. She is noted for her widely published poetry and her dynamism in the teaching of literature. She employs the latest technology available in her classes and brings students to imagined literary experiences. As a holder of the Abeles Endowed Chair in Global Studies, she creates experiences students do not easily forget. She has developed new courses in “Images of Women in Literature” and “Reading and Writing Poetry.” A favored teacher of courses in the College’s Honors Program, her innovations include immersion in collaborative teaching and the development of learning communities. She shares a course with a Psychology Professor, “Literature and Psychology." Professor Gaffney has been awarded two Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence, one in Teaching and the second in Scholarship and Creative Activities. She has been honored by the Westchester Community College Foundation with its Award for Excellence in Teaching. A supporter of student activities, she mentors students preparing for the Beacon Conference and serves as Faculty Advisor to a number of student organizations. She has also been advisor for several scholarly student publications. She is often a featured speaker at workshops, conferences and professional meetings. Her dedication to her work, her students and the College makes her an extraordinary role model.

Distinguished Service Professorship

- Steven R. Keeler – Professor Keeler is the Director of Media Communications degree programs, and the chairperson of the Cayuga Community College’s Humanities and Communications Division. He is known for his leadership and innovation in media and arts education, technology, online learning, curriculum development, and entrepreneurship education. His commitment to the larger community is also substantial. He has taken on leadership roles in regional and statewide organizations, including NEA/NY, the Auburn Public Theater and Auburn...
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Regional Media Access Center, among others. He has been honored nationally and regionally for his achievements. In 1999 and 2001, the Society of Broadcast Engineers honored him as National Educator of the Year. In 2000 he received a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence. In 2001 and 2005, he was a finalist for the American Association of Community Colleges’ David R. Pierce Faculty Technology Award. In 2005 he received Cayuga’s Faculty Award for Excellence, and in 2006, he was named College Technology Educator of the Year by the Technology Association of Central New York.

- **Mary Beth Orrange** – Professor Orrange has been teaching at Erie Community College for over 30 years in the Math Department. During this time, besides the thousands of students instructed, she has had a vast array of contributions to the College and higher education. Three examples of her involvement in strengthening the higher education community at ECC include: 1) Leading the implementation of the Title III Grant from 2005-2010. This grant initiative changed the front door process at the college with improved placement testing, student support services, early alert, web-based student information and other retention activities; 2) Professor Orrange and the Math Unit redesigned, through comprehensive assessment, the math remedial education at ECC. Students are now advised for math remediation using a decision rubric focused on STEM and NON-STEM Degree Career Paths. This has reduced the number of remedial math requirements and time to graduation; and 3) Professor Orrange has been the Middle States Coordinator for the past two years at ECC. She has been an evaluator for the Commission for years, participating on many team visits. Through these activities, Professor Orrange’s tenacity has further enhanced the commitment to sustainability of Institutional Planning and Assessment. She co-chairs the IPA Committee with the EVPAA and CAFO.

- **Raymond E. Petersen** – Encouraging efficacy is at the heart of everything that Dr. Petersen does as a Political Science Professor at Jefferson Community College. Through his efforts in developing a prospectus for the Center for Community Studies at JCC, coordinating its Speaker Series, and now as the director, Dr. Petersen has helped to empower students, faculty and staff in conducting and providing research and forums on community, regional and international issues. Dr. Petersen’s service as delegate to the Faculty Council of Community Colleges includes initiatives to strengthen student transfer, academic standards and integrity, and shared governance at all the community colleges within SUNY. He has been instrumental in strategic planning for JCC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Kinney Drugs Foundation, and many non-profit organizations. His testimony on energy policy has helped to influence regulation of the Power Authority of New York. Through the student organization Polis, which Dr. Petersen founded and advises, students have organized and held forums on issues such as a daycare on campus, elections, war, budget crisis, and healthcare reform. Professor Petersen’s service is far reaching.