



Wayne County Community College District

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Volume I Fall 2013

“Success from Day One: An Effective Syllabus”

The first day of instruction is instrumental in garnering student interest in the course, building community at the college and communicating course expectations for the semester. The syllabus serves multiple purposes towards achieving these goals as a course navigational tool, checklist on assignment due dates and conveyance of instructor / student roles.

An effective syllabus conveys:

- what the class will be like (expectations for the course)
- what students will do and learn (outline of assignments, tasks, due dates and grading methods)
- and expectations (guidelines for instructor/student responsibilities)

A well designed syllabus:

- Increases the likelihood of student success in the classroom
- Guides student learning in accordance with expectations that demonstrate care of learning
- Decreases the number of occurrences which can arise in the course
- Reduces misunderstandings by explicitly stating guidelines

Finally, the syllabus serves as a professional development opportunity for faculty. Effective practitioners do not use “boiler plate” templates but continuously update and review the syllabus each semester allowing them to remain current on concepts, research and teaching tools for the course. Writing and revising provides the reoccurring opportunity to reflect on both the form and purpose of your approach to teaching.

Reflections such as:

- Why did I select the content I selected?
- Should I present the content in this order?
- Are these the best teaching strategies for this course?
- Is there a better way to evaluate achievement?

The syllabus is a contractual document between the instructor and the student. An agreement outlining pertinent information about your course that is used for instruction, evaluation of course assessment learning and aides in transfer to external colleges/universities.



Message from the AVC, Adjunct Faculty

I'm excited to introduce the inaugural edition of our newsletter. I've gleaned a lot of the

desires and needs of our unique population while visiting the campuses, participating in discipline meetings with faculty and via the bi-weekly news and notes emails. Your input is valuable and appreciated.

This edition focuses on being successful at the start of a new semester. Consideration is given to the course syllabus with a few caveats to its importance you may not have considered. Read articles published by faculty. Champions in the classroom lauds those faculty who impart the tacit knowledge and skill experience contributing to the success of our programs and courses. Many thanks, to faculty participating in inter-disciplinary conversations in pedagogy and developing assignments and projects across discipline towards the benefit of our students and improved learning outcomes.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of the newsletter and discover how you can expand your investment into providing stellar service to our students. Celebrate our adjunct faculty population, a valuable resource to the greater metropolitan area and part of a larger engine that supports the continued learning of human capital in the region. We are WCCCD. Celebrate our legacy, our college, our WCCCD where learning leads to a better life!

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Conversations in Pedagogy: Early Childhood, Nursing and Teacher Education

We salute faculty at the district engaging in scholastic discussions across disciplines. Benefits of this type of collaboration include improved communication and experiences for students within their disciplines.

The summative knowledge and experience of faculty in the disciplines yielded open communication, provided for richer interactions, led to creative approaches utilizing critical thinking models to employ in the classroom and expounded on service learning opportunities for students.



Faculty as Program Champions:

Behind the scenes of every good academic program is faculty as champions! Faculty in

the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) are donning their new program T-Shirts to encourage students to learn about, register for and consider employment opportunities in the field. Instructor Gerard Hightower, former WCCCD honors student, licensed mechanical contractor and veteran adjunct faculty in the program noted he purchased five T-shirts; “one for every day of the week throughout the semester.”

If a teacher is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.
- Kahlil Gibran

Published: In the Classroom and On the Frontline: Nursing Faculty Contributing to the Field

The July 2013 Issue of the American Journal of Nursing, features an article from our very own Nursing adjunct professor(s) Jemica Carter, Ph.D. and Gregory B. Gmerek, M.S.A. as contributing authors. The article entitled, “Enhancing Veteran-centered care: A Guide for Nurses in Non-VA Settings” provides nurses in non-VA settings with an overview of the unique health care needs of veterans and describes various resources available through the Veteran’s Administration.



My Legacy
My Students
My WCCCD

Outstanding Faculty of the Year

Presented by the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA)

Patricia A. Wallace-Little, Ph.D., Psychology

Dr. Patricia A. Wallace-Little is a summa cum laude graduate of the inaugural graduating class of Wayne County Community College with an Associate of Arts ('72). She proceeded to complete her education obtaining a Ph.D. in Psychology from Wayne State University. Her legacy at the district spans 37 years as an adjunct faculty member and CEO of Wallace and Associates, a multi-disciplinary psychological service agency. It began as an answer to a “*call for educators willing to tackle the challenges of a unique, new and untested institution*”, which became the evolution of the community college in 1969. She acknowledges the “*conviction, mission and sincerity with which faculty and staff inspired motivated and encouraged students to take pride in their growth and achievement.*” The legacy continues in the next generation with her daughter a current adjunct faculty member at WCCCD.

MISSION: Office of Adjunct Faculty Initiatives

The mission of the Office of Adjunct Faculty Initiatives is to promote the advancement of instructional innovation, strengthen processes to support learning, enhance teaching effectiveness in support of student success and promote faculty development through collective engagement, collaboration and innovation for adjunct faculty that teach at the district.

Dedicated to adjunct faculty: • Engagement • Collaboration • Innovation • Support