

I am a facilitator that empowers the learner to find their voice and the confidence to express that voice to others through a compassionate and respectful environment.

***What you should know about my view of learning***

My teaching philosophy explains communication theories and concepts for real world application. My philosophy of learning allows a student to make the mistakes and get guidance on improvement through a compassionate and interactive learning environment. My lessons provide a framework for students to personalize assignments and apply their own creativity. For example, during a section on Nonverbal Communication a student asked me for more information on body language. Together we changed her informative speech to one that discusses communicating with body language in the workplace. She later used the assignment in a business meeting. This demonstrates my philosophy of explaining the theories and concepts for real world application. The student learned body language communication concepts and applied the concept to a professional work assignment. My teaching philosophy focuses on demonstrating communication concepts and theories in order for the learner to experience the tangible benefits of their education.

***What you should know about my teaching strategies***

Active Learning is the cornerstone of my teaching approach. In order to create a viable learning environment, I use many teaching styles that transcend traditional boundaries. My teaching strategies are akin to what one might observe in a Psycho-educational Cognitive Behavioral Group that is structured inside a Person-Centered Framework. This approach to teaching and learning allows internalization of theories and concepts by critically thinking on an intrapersonal level and in-depth listening on an interpersonal level.

As an instructor, I remain “cutting edge” in terms of incorporating innovative teaching strategies inside and outside of the classroom. For example, I have made arrangements for students in my courses at St. Louis Community College – Flo Valley and Wildwood to receive counseling services at Washington University’s Psychological Services Center. To date I have several students participating in this counseling program. I also arranged for students to assist with the elementary school debate club by acting as mentors to the students. Not only does this experience help students develop personally, but it also helps them become better civic minded professionals as it provides them with a networking and connection opportunity. An important aspect of higher learning is the development of a well-rounded adult that supports a student’s own personal interest and the vitality of the community. Many of my students have rewarded through scholarships and plaques for excellence in their communities because of these out of the classroom projects.

***What should you know about my goal for students?***

Each student should feel confident in who they are and should be comfortable to express who they are. I am an educator that is interested in each student's personal goals and I remain flexible to design exercises and assignments to help the student achieve his or her goals. My process of teaching is to report on the research, share my academic knowledge and journey then invite students to share their knowledge or even disagree. My teaching philosophy is the cornerstone to students discovering together while capitalizing on strengths and building a community in the classroom that fosters learning and empathy for one another.

It is my desire to create an environment that is nurturing and conducive to meaningful interactions with students. I attest much of my effectiveness as an educator to the in-class peer evaluations that I administer. One indicator of success can be found in my student evaluations, which have progressively improved. I attribute these improvements to my willingness to thoughtfully consider student feedback and translate it into practical changes in my teaching strategies and course policies. I consider in-class peer evaluations to be illustrative of teaching effectiveness. During in-class observations, my colleagues have noted the high level of energy and student engagement in the classroom. They also comment positively upon my successful incorporation of technological innovation and the effectiveness with which I deliver course material. My colleagues also voted for me as the Faculty of the Year award recipient at St. Louis Community College-Wildwood and both students and faculty awarded me the New Teacher of the Year award from Speech Theatre Association of Missouri.

***What should you know about my implementation?***

As an instructor, I am comfortable in the classroom. My training and experience have given me the tools and knowledge needed to maximize each teaching experience and the excitement to look forward to new teaching opportunities. In order to ensure that I effectively implement my teaching philosophy, I am committed to the idea that becoming an effective teacher is an on-going process. As such, it is important to continue to explore innovative teaching design and strategies. I have taken advantage of several such opportunities. Every year I make it a point to attend a communication conference to gain an understanding of the most recent methods in speech communications. I have also attended several workshops on collaborative learning techniques every year that I teach. My training and experience have successfully prepared me to incorporate technology in the classroom, to teach large classes, relate to students, facilitate active learning, and teach difficult or disinteresting topics. My students call me the professor who makes the uncomfortable, comfortable.

***What should you know about me as an educator?***

I am a champion of education. I am a lover of humanity. I come alive when I walk through an institution's physical or virtual doors. I have a genuine respect of my colleagues and I am quick to apologize. Intimidation and condescension are behaviors I actively avoid. I live authentically always by embracing commonalities and differences. My life's journey has shaped me into the loving and peaceful woman I am today. My education enlightens me and offers sanity in an unpredictable world. My autonomy reminds me that this is my individual walk, and I must allow others to make their own individual walk without showing bias or judgment. My aim is living a teaching philosophy that respects the student, faculty, and staff for who they are and not what I want them to be.