

**Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU)  
and CCS Foundation  
Exceptional Faculty Award Recipients  
2010 - 2011**

**Spokane Community College**

**Erin Clason**

Instructor, SCC Health Education and Sonography

Erin's motto, which she addresses to her students, is "You are my customers," and it is evident in everything she does. She is a champion for her students that every instructor should strive to be. Described as a truly excellent educator, both Erin's students and peers indicate that her focus is to help students retain the knowledge they are given in the classroom to be able to save lives or work other important jobs in the future. Her teaching style encourages students to succeed. Erin craves knowledge and loves to share it.

Several students noted that she makes them feel *comfortable* in her teaching environment. She is a phenomenal teacher who provides special opportunities for her students to experience life in the real world of health care, such as student-led ultrasounds, cardiograms and well check-ups. Her students go on to make great contributions to society. One student noted that "a gift that can never be repaid was given to me the day I walked into her class."

**Doug Nelson**

Instructor, SCC Economics

One of Doug's students said "I actually was sad when my...class ended because I will miss having him as an instructor." Doug makes it a point to personally interact with every student, learning *about* them as they learn *from* him. He is genuinely concerned about his students receiving a very strong and well rounded education, and helps them to succeed not only in his classes but in their other classes as well. Doug teaches good study habits as well as good life habits, encouraging perseverance and achievement inside and outside the classroom.

Doug's students describe him as engaging, caring, challenging and motivating. He pushes his students out of their comfort zones, but gives them the tools they need to be successful in life.

**Barbara Rielly**

Instructor, SCC Legal Administrative Assistant

Barbara listens to her students and guides them with sincerity. She keeps in touch with her students long after they move on, helping them find jobs in the legal arena and providing advice and encouragement. Her students describe her as motivating, helpful and inspiring.

Barb helped her students establish a local chapter of NALS, which is the National Association of Legal Professionals. Membership provides her students with opportunities to associate with attorneys, judges, and others involved in areas of the law, and encourages mentoring from legal professionals. Barb is very active in the SCC community as well as the Spokane community, and encourages the same from her students.

**Institute for Extended Learning****Jenny Houck**

Instructor, IEL College Prep

Jenny Houck wants more for her students than many of them want for themselves, and she has the skills to motivate them to achieve dreams they have/had not even considered as possibilities. She prepares students to attend college and provides them with the resources they need to move forward.

Jenny conducts an after school leadership program and helps her students with every aspect of becoming a college attendee, from registration to checking completion of financial paper work. She is patient and inspiring. Jenny secures grants to help her students. One of her students said "If she didn't have a family she would live at school because her program is a huge part of her life." Another said "She is the most dedicated teacher I've seen."

**Robert (Mike) Hunley**

Instructor, IEL Corrections ABE/GED

Mike Hunley teaches incarcerated adult males at Airway Heights Corrections Center. Mike has a special ability to motivate this challenging population, who are often uncooperative, aggressive and angry. Most have never been successful in an academic setting. Mike has a special ability to reach these students and his GED graduation rate demonstrates his success rate. He is determined to help them succeed and often creates special learning materials for specific individuals.

Mike is constantly looking for ways to improve ABE/GED programs and teaching methodologies. He is truly amazing at what he accomplishes and is an inspiration to not only his students, but the entire AHCC Education Department.

**Suzanne McCurdy**

Counselor, IEL Student Services

Suzanne expels great effort in providing a positive experience for students as she does her advising and career counseling. She always has the student's best interests in mind. Suzanne goes out of her way to meet students where they are if they do not have the means to travel to her. She helps students identify their successes as well as their struggles, and how to overcome their obstacles.

Suzanne is truly appreciated by students, staff and faculty. Her enthusiasm is exemplary and her dedication is unmatched. She leads by example. Serving as an ASB Advisor, Suzanne works with students to encourage events of diversity, involving the local community as well as students from outlying centers. She promotes student success.

**Spokane Falls Community College****Heather Keast**

Instructor, Title III Activity Director

Heather ensures that every dollar spent is within the rules of the Title III grant and is related to student education. Only then will she place her tiny, but powerful, signature of approval on anything. Heather has been involved in the planning and setup of many special programs such as Supplemental Instruction, First Year Introduction, College Success events, Project DEgree, and peer mentoring and tutoring. She strongly supports all causes for diversity and equity and is adept at directing activities.

Heather has proven to be an excellent teacher as well, making each student feel that they are valued. If it involves students in any way, Heather is tireless. She embodies the change we'd all like to see in the world.

**KayDee Steele**

Instructor, SFCC Human Services - Chemical Dependency

KayDee's work ethic is unsurpassed. Her classroom is a place of excitement for learning. The best word to describe her is pizzazz. She knows her stuff and delivers it with pizzazz. KayDee has her students wanting to learn more, to teach one another, and to help each other out. She has high standards for her students and an effective way of helping them learn. She spends endless hours helping students identify resources and networking possibilities.

KayDee recently provided the leadership and administration for a special grant that she applied for and won. She worked through several systemic challenges. The grant allows for twenty-three Master Level students to complete the Washington State educational requirements to become Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors. KayDee has done this and much more to help integrate the worlds of substance abuse and mental health, and she is a caring and highly respected member of the social services community.

**Josh Westermann**

Instructor, SFCC English

Josh works with some of the neediest and most difficulty-prone students in our population through Project DEgree. These students are triple developmental and therefore at very high risk of attrition. They have had little success in their lives. Josh has a singleness of purpose to help these students acquire the skills and taste for academic and life success. He gives these students the gift of good study skills. Further, he helps them get connected to financial, health and other resources. He deals with the whole person to be able to change their life's direction for the better. Josh's retention rate for this especially challenging group loudly attests to his dedication and excellent teaching skills.

Josh has proven to be an outstanding source of information ideas for improving developmental reading and writing instruction and has quickly become an expert on community resources.