



WAUBONSEE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Faculty Development and Engagement*

2020



Association of College  
and University Educators

# Association of College and University Educators Yearbook

Waubonsee Community College, Class of 2020

# ABOUT ACUE

Founded in 2014 by forefront leaders in higher education, ACUE supports faculty to meet the needs of the evolving 21st century classroom through their **Course in Effective Teaching Practices®** developed in collaboration with hundreds of college educators and leading experts. Featuring over 50 award-winning college educators and two dozen experts, this course utilizes research specializing in college instruction, adult learning, and the cognitive sciences. Each ACUE module offers research based strategies for both face-to-face and online instruction, specifically: Designing an Effective Course, Establishing a Productive Learning Environment, Using Active Learning Strategies, Promoting Higher Order Thinking, Assessing to Inform Instruction & Promote Learning ([https://acue.org/?acue\\_courses=acues-effective-practice-framework](https://acue.org/?acue_courses=acues-effective-practice-framework), accessed 08.10.20). Faculty who complete the course receive a **Certificate in Effective College Instruction** that is endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE).

## ACUE's Mission

The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) mission is to ensure student success through quality instruction. ACUE believes that every faculty member deserves the support and preparation needed to teach well, so that every student receives an extraordinary education. ACUE believes that faculty members play an indispensable role in the academic and personal achievement of their students.

## Waubonsee and ACUE

Waubonsee Community College provided the faculty participating in the certificate program the option to enroll in the **ACE Graduate Credit Course, *The Fundamentals of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education***. The faculty who pursued this option engaged in additional graduate-level coursework, including the development of First Day and Interactive Class Session Plans, Peer Review of Class Session Plans, a Comprehensive Syllabus Assignment, Teaching Philosophy, and Teaching ePortfolio. Completion of these assignments with a B or better provided course takers with three graduate credits transcribed by ACE. For full-time faculty, Waubonsee approved these graduate credits for application towards columnar advancement.

## Waubonsee's Historic First Cohort

Waubonsee Community College prides itself on thinking forward in an always evolving educational climate. "Change is the only constant," our president, Dr. Christine Sobek, reminds us in the most recent strategic plan for our institution. Building from a rich history of transformational thinking, Waubonsee strives to develop three primary pillars: 1) student equity and success, 2) community connections, and 3) employee and organizational excellence. Evidence from our first historic cohort demonstrates that

partnering with ACUE is successful for instructors, thus our students, and meets all three of our strategic pillars as we move forward.

When Waubonsee's partnership with ACUE began, the college was actively working towards closing achievement gaps for African-American, Latinx, and low-income (Pell-eligible) students as part of the Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) initiative. Waubonsee joined forces with fellow ILEA colleagues from the College of Lake County and ACUE to prioritize equitable and inclusive teaching practices within the course framework. ACUE's flexibility and support in this endeavor helped to ensure that Waubonsee could continue addressing the needs of the aforementioned student groups as well as meet the goals of its Educational Affairs, Equity, and Strategic Plans.

Our historic first cohort was comprised of half adjunct faculty and half full-time faculty, ranging in disciplines from math to nursing and everything in between. This diverse cohort concretely demonstrated that ACUE's effective teaching practices not only aided content experts in learning educational practices but in furthering all educators on their lifelong learning journey—in extraordinary circumstances.

Of course, no instructor in higher education could have predicted the sudden pivot to virtual learning that became necessary in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our faculty were creative, resilient, and steadfast in their commitment to excellence and to their students. They implemented the online resources already embedded in the ACUE course and embraced the Online Teaching Toolkit© that ACUE made available to educators nationwide. In true fellowship, ACUE understood that our faculty's priority must be our students and our collective health, wellness, and safety. Cohort members were granted the time and space needed to prioritize their well-being and complete their spring courses, returning to the ACUE course when they were able. We, as Facilitators, were amazed by their perseverance. We anticipated a positive inaugural cohort experience but had no idea just how meaningful it would be to share ideas and collaborate—to maintain our sense of community—in these uncertain times. We remain committed to maintaining this culture of excellence from our proof that partnering with ACUE is transformationally successful.

Whether through the lens of employee and organizational excellence, community connections or student equity and success, this union exemplifies our strategic plan. Like Waubonsee, ACUE is evolving with the educational climate while remaining true to the abundance of literature regarding effective teaching practices. As ACUE expands exponentially, Waubonsee looks forward to continued change and a successful partnership while launching our next cohort this fall and celebrating the further successes of those educators who completed this year!

Sincerely,

Sara Gregory, Robin Luxton, and David Voorhees, ACUE Faculty Facilitators  
Laura E. Ortiz, Ed.D., ACUE Campus Lead

## Letter from President Christine J. Sobek, Ed.D.

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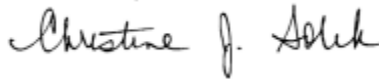
Dear Faculty Colleagues:

Congratulations on earning your Certificate in Effective College Instruction through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). As members of Waubonsee's inaugural cohort, you are leading the way in our commitment to continuous improvement and quality teaching and learning.

Your dedication and extra efforts are to be commended. This accomplishment is even more impressive when combined with the added challenges we all faced this spring as we shifted to our virtual world. I am confident that the resources and learning within the ACUE program assisted in this transition.

Best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine J. Sobek".

Christine J. Sobek, Ed.D.  
President

## Letter from Vice President of Educational Affairs Diane Nyhammer, Ph.D.

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Faculty Colleagues,

Congratulations on being part of Waubonsee Community College's inaugural Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Class of 2020!

I have already seen the many ways that ACUE's Effective Teaching Practices have been integrated into our collective work to ensure quality higher education at Waubonsee. Your efforts to transform your teaching are already undoubtedly felt by your students and colleagues alike. Your dedication to finding methods for continuously improving teaching and learning, particularly with the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic for you and your students, is laudable.

As you know, Waubonsee's Strategic Plan and the Educational Affairs Plan support the overarching pillar of Student Equity and Success. One of the college strategic plan goals is to "promote student equity and provide quality learning experiences and personal growth for all students," and a supporting Educational Affairs Plan goal directs us to "ensure effective teaching practices, high quality educational experiences, and consistent learning outcomes across all courses, programs, and services." Through your completion of all 25 of the course modules which comprise ACUE's Effective Practice Framework, you have helped advance these college priorities and strategic goals, and you have expanded your skills and knowledge base to help students learn and succeed whether onsite or in online classes.

I commend all of you who have earned ACUE's Certificate in Effective College Instruction, endorsed by the American Council on Education.

Sincerely,



Diane Nyhammer, Ph.D.  
Vice President of Educational Affairs  
Waubonsee Community College  
Sugar Grove, IL  
630-466-2353  
[dnyhammer@waubonsee.edu](mailto:dnyhammer@waubonsee.edu)

# **ACUE 2020 Honorees**

## **Certificates in Effective College Instruction**

The following individuals have earned ACUE's Certificate in Effective College Instruction, endorsed by the American Council on Education:

**Larry Becker**, Adjunct Faculty, Mathematics

**Marcy Bock**, Adjunct Faculty, English

**Kaitlin Burgess**, Adjunct Faculty, Mathematics

**Scott Buziecki**, Adjunct Faculty, Criminal Justice

**Amy Chaaban**, Assistant Professor of Information Systems

**David Chase**, Adjunct Faculty, Humanities

**Jason Chatman**, Instructor of Sociology

**Tracey Dosch**, Professor of Biology

**Dani Fischer**, Associate Professor of Biology

**Morgan Franczyk**, Adjunct Faculty, English

**Rosemary Fugazzotto**, Adjunct Faculty, Nurse Assistant Skills (CNA)

**Sara Gregory**, Adjunct Faculty, Music

**Justin Hoshaw**, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Elior Iseli**, Instructor of Economics

**Tracy Limbrunner**, Associate Professor of Nursing

**Jon Nichols**, Instructor of English

**Chris Purdy**, Instructor of Mathematics

**Patty Saccone**, Associate Professor of Health Information Technology

**Dr. Sheela Vemu**, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Brian Wetters**, Adjunct Faculty, Accounting

# ACUE 2020

## Graduate Credit Recipients

The following individuals have earned three graduate credit hours for successfully completing The Fundamentals of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education:

**Kaitlin Burgess**, Adjunct Faculty, Mathematics

**Scott Buziecki**, Adjunct Faculty, Criminal Justice

**Amy Chaaban**, Assistant Professor of Information Systems

**Jason Chatman**, Instructor of Sociology

**Tracey Dosch**, Professor of Biology

**Dani Fischer**, Associate Professor of Biology

**Justin Hoshaw**, Assistant Professor of Biology

**Tracy Limbrunner**, Associate Professor of Nursing

**Chris Purdy**, Instructor of Mathematics

# Yearbook Photos & Testimonials



**Larry Becker**

"I feel this class has given me the tools to help get my students engaged in their learning. In my evaluation a few years ago the one comment that my dean made was that I needed to include more group work, without telling me how to do it. I now feel I understand how to effectively implement some things to do that."



**Kaitlin Burgess**

"ACUE really helped me to reflect on my teaching. It helped me to think of how the students would learn best for each topic. I am really glad that I took this course and I would highly recommend it to others!"



**Marcy Bock**

"Although I have been teaching for quite some time, the ACUE program gave me a fresh perspective on activities I may have used in the past as well as many great new ideas to try with my students. By applying the course techniques as I was learning them, I was able to make them my own and fit them to the needs of my students."



**Scott Buziecki**

"This course has given me a bunch of tools & techniques to make me a more effective teacher."



**Amy Chaaban**

"Earning ACUE's Certificate in Effective College Instruction was the best learning experience in my educational journey. Learning new techniques and strategies combined with implementing them in the classroom, improved student learning, retention, instructor student interaction and communication."



**Jason Chatman**

"ACUE is a great resource that taught me new teaching styles and techniques that have fundamentally improved the classroom experience for my students in both my online and face-to-face courses."



**Tracey Dosch**

"Participation in the ACUE cohort was beneficial even with 25+ years of teaching experience. It affirmed that I am already doing many things right while providing more tools to benefit today's students."



**Dani Fischer**

"The ACUE class has given me the toolbox to build the most active classroom I have ever had. The content, feedback, and interaction with my peers has been invaluable."



**Morgan Franczyk**

"ACUE has had an absolute positive impact on my teaching as it has shown me how to more actively engage with my students to promote the development of their skills. The practices taught by ACUE have aided me in crafting the most effective course I can deliver while keeping students' interest and encouraging deeper thinking."



**Rosemary Fugazzotto**

"I had taken no formal education classes when I started teaching as an adjunct instructor and did not know anything of curriculum development beyond what was provided to me from my textbook publisher. I was very impressed that ACUE was able to customize their approach to all levels of teachers, from beginners to experts. ACUE helped me develop a foundation of credible classroom teaching strategies to improve my practice, and it was easy to implement them on a weekly basis."



**Sara Gregory**

"This course has helped me prepare to become a more effective instructor throughout the year towards current unpreparable times. I learned specifically how to become a more engaging, encouraging and communicative instructor. ACUE has been a monumental springboard for my career in higher education!"



**Justin Hoshaw**

"ACUE taught me much more than I anticipated about both new and old topics in addition to giving me a greater familiarity and confidence in pursuing top-notch teaching methods. The material truly outlines and explains all the qualities of an excellent instructor in ways that are simple to understand and easy to implement."



**Elior Iseli**

"Whatever you teach must be assessed and aligned to higher order learning outcomes"



**Tracy Limbrunner**

"ACUE has provided me with many tools and techniques to spice up my teaching, bring back excitement in my delivery and make me a more effective educator"



**Jon Nichols**

"ACUE is the best online, asynchronous course on pedagogy I've ever taken."



**Chris Purdy**

"Taking the ACUE course has challenged me to understand that there are so many different kinds of learners in our classrooms with all kinds of needs and preferences. The course helped me to think more deeply about meeting the needs of all students through varied, research-based instructional techniques. Time and time again, I found that discussing with my colleagues and implementing the insights and best practices from the course resulted in a more positive, supportive, enriching learning environment for my students."



**Patty Saccone**

"The ACUE course gave me the confidence to implement new and effective teaching techniques. Every module was packed with strategies based upon evidence-based practice that were ready to implement. The course design was clear, effective and easy to follow. Another great benefit came from interacting with fellow colleagues about their experiences in the classroom."



**Dr. Sheela Vemu**

"When things get difficult, turn to wonder. If you find yourself disagreeing with another, becoming judgmental, shutting down in defense, try turning to wonder: "I wonder what my reaction teaches me?"

— Estrus Tucker



**Brian Wetters** "Completing ACUE "Effective Teaching Practices" has resulted in my becoming closer to the minds and motivations of students, whom I serve principally as an instructor."

# Special Thanks

**Christine J. Sobek, Ed.D.**

President of Waubensee Community College

**Diane Nyhammer, Ph.D.**

Vice President of Educational Affairs

## Academic Lead

**Carmen Macharaschwili, Ph.D.**

Director of Academic Programs, Association of College and University Educators

## Campus Lead and Graduate Course Grader

**Laura E. Ortiz, Ed.D.**

Dean for Faculty Development and Engagement

## Faculty Facilitators

**Sara Gregory**

Adjunct Faculty Development Coordinator

**Robin Luxton**

Adjunct Faculty Development Coordinator

**David Voorhees**

Faculty Development Coordinator

## Faculty Development and Engagement

**Angelia Williams**

Administrative Specialist for the Office of Faculty Development & Engagement