

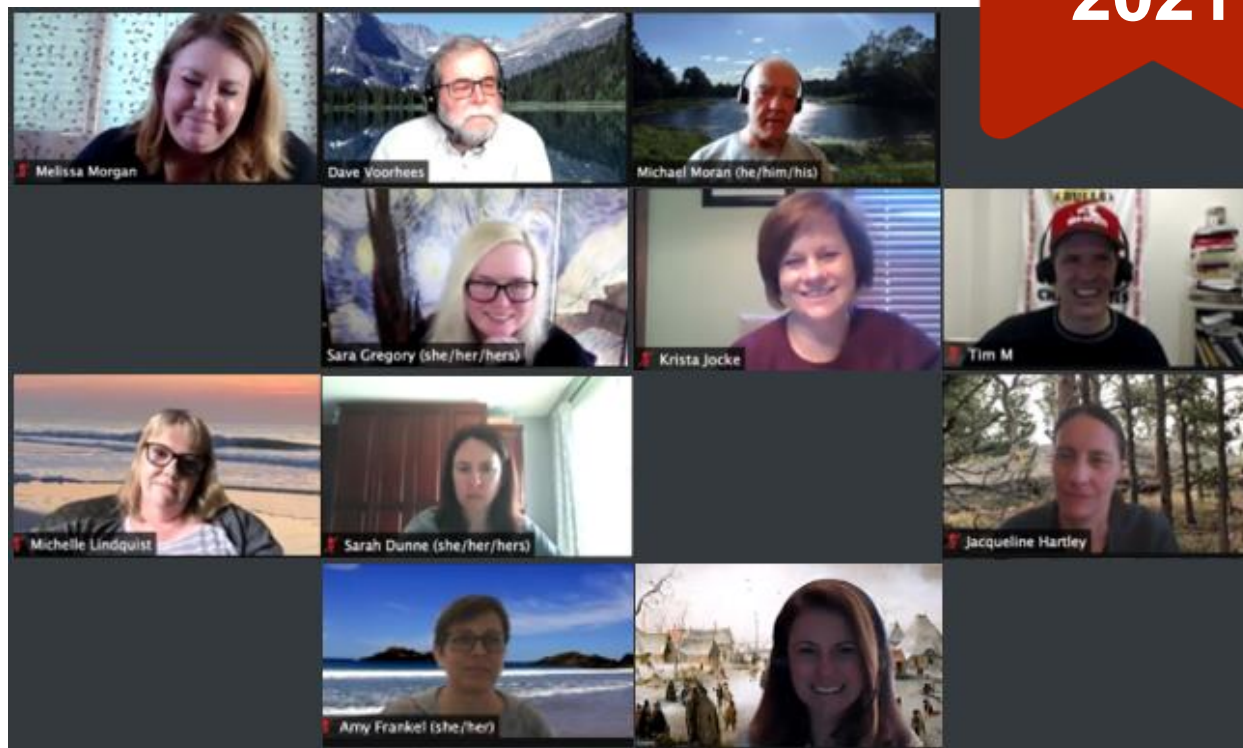


WAUBONSEE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Faculty Development and Engagement*



**Class of  
2021**



Association of College  
and University Educators

# Association of College and University Educators Yearbook

Waubonsee Community College, Class of 2021

# 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 Resilient Second Cohort

Waubonsee Community College prides itself on thinking forward in an always evolving educational climate. As our president, Dr. Christine Sobek, reminds us, “change is the only constant.” Building from a rich history of transformational thinking, Waubonsee’s Strategic Plan: FY2020-2022 is centered around three pillars: 1) student equity and success, 2) community connections, and 3) employee and organizational excellence. Aligned with all three strategic pillars, Waubonsee’s partnership with ACUE has successfully supported our instructors and students and will continue to do so well into the future.

When Waubonsee’s partnership with ACUE began, the college was actively working towards closing achievement and opportunity gaps for African-American, Latinx, and low-income (Pell-eligible) students as part of the Illinois Equity in Attainment Initiative (ILEA). 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 responsiveness and support in this endeavor helped Waubonsee actively address the needs of the aforementioned student groups as well as advance towards the goals of its Educational Affairs, Equity, and Strategic Plans.

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. This transition compelled this year’s cohort to accommodate new student needs by utilizing more extensive teaching platforms, best practices, and varying instructional designs. Change is certainly still a constant, but our faculty were creative, resilient, and steadfast in their commitment to inclusive 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. They modeled inclusive and equitable learning through their understanding and compassion for educators. This year, they applied these practices by extending grace to all with extra check-ins, multiple work sprints, and online summary discussions. Cohort members were granted the time and space needed to prioritize their well-being and complete their modules when able. We, as Facilitators, were amazed by their perseverance and ability to sprint their way to success!

Waubonsee remains committed to supporting this culture of inclusive teaching and learning excellence by continuing to invest in our faculty’s professional development. Our faculty are talented, compassionate, strong, unique, and are appreciated in each class they teach and by each student they help. By sustaining our ACUE partnership, all educators committed to lifelong learning at Waubonsee may further enhance their teaching skills at no personal cost. The results are clear and the resolve is strong: educators are valued, supported, and recognized.

Whether through the lens of employee and organizational excellence, community connections or student equity and success, this union exemplifies our commitment to support the college's strategic plan. As ACUE grows exponentially, Waubonsee is proud to continue nurturing this successful partnership by launching our third cohort in Fall 2021, offering a new Inclusive Teaching for Equitable Learning microcredential opportunity this summer, and celebrating the continued success of those educators who completed this year!

Congratulations on this significant achievement and best wishes on your future endeavors!

Sara Gregory 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:

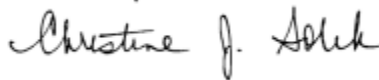
Congratulations on earning your Certificate in Effective College Instruction through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). You join an exclusive group of colleagues who are leading the way in Waubonsee's commitment to continuous improvement and quality teaching and learning.

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for your dedication, extra efforts and investment in your professional development. This accomplishment is even more impressive when combined with the added challenges we have continued to face during a global pandemic.

Based on feedback from our previous cohort, I am confident that the network, resources, and learning developed within the ACUE program will be an excellent source of knowledge and assistance throughout your teaching career. Your devotion to achieving student success and the pursuit of excellence is recognized and appreciated.

Again, congratulations ACUE Class of 2021 and 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 and thank you for participating in Waubonsee Community College's Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Class of 2021. The fact that you dedicated time to this professional development opportunity in this academic year -- while the global pandemic created so many additional challenges for faculty-- is a testament to your commitment to improving teaching and learning practices and to offering quality higher education at Waubonsee.

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 regardless of the course modality.

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 2021 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:

**Jessica Bantz**, Adjunct Faculty, English Developmental Education

**Sarah Dunne**, Adjunct Faculty, English

**Amy Frankel**, Professor of Mathematics

**Jacqueline Hartley**, Instructor of Sociology

**Krista M. Jocke**, Adjunct Faculty, English Developmental Education

**Ruby Kaur**, Adjunct Faculty, Biology

**Steve Kifowit**, Instructor of Mathematics

**Laurel Krueger**, Associate Professor of Nursing

**Michelle Lindquist**, Associate Professor of English Developmental Education

**Michael Moran**, Assistant Professor of Human Services

**Melissa Morgan**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Developmental Education

**Tim Moriarty**, Assistant Professor of Information Systems

**Carrie Needham**, Adjunct Faculty, Biology

**Amy Powers**, Professor of History

**Marjie Schoolfield**, Associate Professor of Nursing

## ACUE 2021

### Graduate Credit Recipients

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

**Krista M. Jocke**, Adjunct Faculty, English Developmental Education

**Melissa Morgan**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Developmental Education

**Carrie Needham**, Adjunct Faculty, Biology

# Yearbook Photos & Testimonials



**Sarah Dunne**

"This course allowed me to explore new activities in every module that I was able to immediately apply in my courses. The information was well organized, topical, immediately applicable, and greatly helped my instruction during a difficult time. I would highly recommend ACUE coursework to anyone interested in expanding their approach to their courses."



**Amy Frankel**

"Even a seasoned veteran can find several things in the course to improve student engagement, learning, and success. What I've learned from my brilliant colleagues in the online and virtual discussions has added to the value. So glad I completed the course and added a new spark to my teaching."



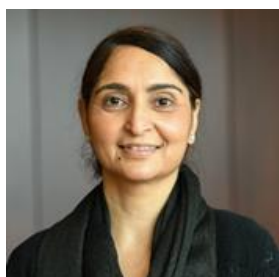
**Jacqueline Hartley**

"The ACUE course provided me with specific teaching techniques to be more effective in the classroom, but more importantly, it taught me how to design courses, creating student-centered learning outcomes and aligning them with assessments, assignments, and in-class activities."



**Krista M. Jocke**

"Having the opportunity to be a part of this ACUE course has been a blessing! I was able to refine my teaching practices that I have used throughout my 20 years on top of learning new and exciting ways to present to my classes. I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity!"



**Ruby Kaur**

"ACUE made me reflect on my pedagogical strategies and opened many more avenues for connecting with students in-person and online. It has provided a platform for faculty interactions and a bridge to transform those academic strengths to students in my classrooms. Thanks, ACUE team!!"



**Steve Kifowit**

"The ACUE course was interesting and enjoyable. It covered a great variety of topics that are useful to both new and seasoned faculty. I learned lots of new things, and it definitely gave me more food for thought."



**Laurel Krueger**

"ACUE has given me options. Seeing all the possibilities and implementing new practices for my class is exciting. Thank you for the opportunity and support I received."



**Michelle Lindquist**

"As a certified teacher in the state of Illinois, and a college professor as well, I found ACUE's program to be quite effective and certainly relevant to instructors' use of best practices in the community college classroom. The topics, modules, discussions, and reflections are all designed in such a way to not only move the needle on student achievement but to also encourage, motivate, and support teaching professionals in their own personal, academic journeys."



**Michael Moran**

"The ACUE course was the perfect combination of theory and application. I was introduced to a variety of useful concepts, have already adopted many, with more to come, as they really improved my approach to teaching."



**Melissa Morgan**

"I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to complete the ACUE course during an atypical academic year. On many occasions, I stepped outside my comfort-zone and not only found some activities and lessons that will become part of my courses in the future, but I gained more confidence to be flexible and adaptive through the success and failure of the things I attempted. Without a doubt, my students and I benefitted from this experience with the course improvements, but also because my students saw that I was striving to do my best for them."



**Tim Moriarty**

"ACUE was an amazing learning experience and a real eye opener as to all the different types of teaching techniques out there for college professors. The design and structure of the online class was among the best I have been a part of. During this isolating COVID time it was great to collaborate with my faculty colleagues on ways to improve our work in the classroom."



**Carrie Needham**

"The ACUE program helped me to reimagine how to reach out to, engage, listen to, and better cooperate with students using new as well as updating processes I learned in my prior education-based background. I have already used several of these updated and/ or new techniques in my classes over the course of the program to a good response and look forward to implementing more of them as I continue to teach here at WCC."



**Amy Powers**

"Although I enjoyed the entire ACUE curriculum, I would have to say that I most appreciated the program's practical, easy-to-implement active-learning strategies that genuinely promote student engagement and enhance learning. What makes ACUE special is its flexibility. This is not a "one size fits all" program that demands rigid compliance to a set of arbitrary standards. Rather, the program offers a wide range of examples to meet a variety of teaching styles and philosophies. "



**Marjie Schoolfield**

"I recognized that Waubonsee has incorporated many of the tools in ACUE through faculty development instruction, but I learned far more because of the depth of material and practice within the modules. There are so many resources that are presented in each module, and I look forward to continuing to better my instructional delivery and engaging my students by incorporating the resources in the upcoming classes."

# Special Thanks

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

President of Waubonsee Community College

**Diane Nyhammer, Ph.D.**

Vice President of Educational Affairs

## Academic Lead

**Carmen Macharaschwili, Ph.D.**

Academic Strategy Consultant, 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

**David Voorhees**

Faculty Development Coordinator

## Faculty Development and Engagement

**Angelia Williams**

Administrative Specialist for the Office of Faculty Development & Engagement

**This program is funded through Waubonsee's Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.**