I am continually amazed at the creativity, energy and dedication to learning demonstrated by our faculty. The wide range of topics and goals in these Endowed Faculty Chair awards is only the beginning. The endowment process provides ongoing support of teaching and learning at Kirkwood. Decades from now, students and faculty will benefit from what these fine faculty members do today.

~ Dr. Mick Starcevich, President
What are the Endowed Faculty Chair Awards?

The Endowed Faculty Chair awards were initiated by Kirkwood Community College President Dr. Mick Starcevich to honor retiring President Dr. Norm Nielsen in December 2004.

Endowed Faculty Chairs provide an opportunity for selected faculty to undertake professional development projects in their disciplines or in instructional pedagogy through writing, preparing and presenting a special lecture, conducting research, or pursuing other opportunities. The emphasis is on personal and professional growth and is separate from assigned duties, routine work or service to the department.

The goals for the Endowed Faculty Chair program are to:

• Encourage faculty to pursue educational challenges with creativity and innovation.
• Promote academic quality by supporting faculty commitment to educational and pedagogical excellence.
• Promote the college's name in connection with educational excellence.
• Bring community leaders and faculty together in a commitment to excellence in education.

The Endowed Faculty Chair program is a major effort by the Kirkwood Board of Trustees and the Kirkwood Foundation Board to demonstrate their commitment to quality instruction by recognizing and fostering instructional excellence and lifelong learning.
One of the most difficult mysteries, which makes us all into philosophers, concerns why we suffer so much. Can we reconcile God with all the misery in the world? Why do we have to die? Why do some people suffer from schizophrenia or migraines? Why do we inflict such terrible injustices on each other? I’m currently finishing a book on what philosophers have to say about these questions, and how we can use their wisdom to help us live more meaningfully in relationship to the pain, injustice and death we all confront. As with my first book, The Deepest Human Life, I interweave ideas from the great philosophical tradition with the struggles of everyday people, including my students at Kirkwood as well as my students at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, a.k.a. Oakdale Prison.
KirKwood Endowed Faculty Chair
D J Hennager
Creating a Spatially Organized Open Education Resource Textbook in Human Anatomy and Physiology

My goal is to create a spatially organized Open Education Resource (OER) textbook that allows efficient incorporation of many of the current best practices in education (the flipped classroom, Bloom’s taxonomy, Understanding by Design, creativity defined as finding novel relationships, critical thinking, andragogy, variety in learning styles, competencies, analytics, and social collaboration). I would propose that each of these best practices are best implemented by moving away from the linearity of the textbook and into a more spatial arrangement of information as found on the World Wide Web. By using the Web as the foundation, this textbook will concisely incorporate multiple assessments including self-assessment, formative assessment, metacognitive reflection and summative assessment. In later stages, the results of this project will be validated by comparing success rates when using the current textbook versus the newly created spatial textbook. Thus, I propose the creation of a web-based platform to deliver content, assess, and validate higher levels of understanding in my anatomy and physiology courses.

KirKwood Endowed Faculty Chair
Joe GreatHouse
Creation of a Searchable Database for ACE Activities

Bridging the skills and awareness gap within the fields of Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) is a high priority for our students and our industry partners. The resounding theme I hear when talking with ACE industry professionals is their desire to make an impact to help build future generations of ACE professionals. Most of the efforts made by these individuals are happening in silos and are not very effective in bringing about systemic change.

Creating meaningful dialogue and collaboration opportunities to innovate a shared vision for student success is of the highest priority for our ACE industries. Kirkwood Community College is well positioned to be a catalyst and I am committed to providing the leadership to make it happen. My work to develop a directory of ACE professionals working in our service area will strengthen our ability to effectively communicate opportunities to all stakeholders.
The Influence of Self-Regulation Skills on Self-Efficacy

Situational and social-cultural factors such as being from an under-represented group, a single parent, a full-time employee, or even just being a young adult male are all factors that interfere with student success. But, what influence do internal psychological factors, such as self-efficacy, have on student’s achievement motivation? Self-efficacy is the belief that we are capable or prepared to handle certain tasks. Perhaps the students who have higher self-efficacy have more developed self-regulation skills, which include the intentional use of actions to maximize the learning of knowledge and skills for a given task and set of conditions (Snowman & McGown, 2013). Can self-efficacy be improved through instructional activities to improve self-regulation skills and targeted institutional interventions such as reading and writing support? The goal of this project is to identify specific instructional strategies and institutional interventions that instructors can use to further develop students’ self-regulation skills.

College Students Writing About Abuse

Every semester in their Kirkwood classes, students choose to write about their experiences as victims of child abuse, domestic abuse, or sexual assault. I work in the Writing Center, so I know that this happens not only in English composition courses like mine, but also in other disciplines like social work, psychology and criminal justice. Clearly abuse survivors at Kirkwood have a great desire to write about their experiences. And just as clearly, faculty need guidance in responding to both the academic needs and the emotional content of this kind of writing. To learn more about the writing that abuse survivors do in college, I will research this subject in published scholarship and conduct interviews with current and former Kirkwood students. Then, I will write recommendations for how faculty members can best support these writers, and also how Kirkwood might provide non-academic settings for their voices.
2017-2018
Endowed Faculty Chair Recipients

Bill Stephens
Can Money Buy Happiness?
Professor, Anthropology | Arts and Humanities

Supported by the Henry B. and Patricia B. Tippie Endowed Chair

Michael Sells
Utilizing YouTube as a Surgical Technology Skills Resource
Associate Professor, Surgical Technology | Allied Health

Laura Yost
Waiting for the Peace: Italian Soldier Newspapers in the Great War
Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies | Distance Learning/Social Sciences

Ryan Dehner
Implementing Competency-Based Language Teaching in Institutions of Higher Learning
Assistant Professor, ELA | English

Serena Tarr
Exploring the Female Trump Base in Iowa
Assistant Professor, Sociology | Iowa City Campus

David Hulm
Screenplay Deep Freeze
Professor, English | Iowa City Campus

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We are grateful to the Endowed Faculty Chair donors and their dedication to supporting excellence in the classroom.

For more information about creating an Endowed Faculty Chair in honor or memory of someone special, contact Kathy Hall at 319-398-7650 or khall@kirkwood.edu.