



## Teaching Philosophy:

I believe students in today's world are looking for proof. "Prove to me that this is something that I can use later in life," would sum it up succinctly. As a result, in teaching these young adults, I look for a way to bring the lessons and lectures to a personal level for each of them. To do this, I feel it is necessary to go beyond only lecture and PowerPoint slides to hands-on, interactive, groupwork, and out of class experiments while relying on students' self-directed curiosity and the input of their peers to influence learning. Strong leaders are able to unite the group and lead them toward the goal, and I take that challenge to heart.

## And we have fun.

Some students seem surprised that learning can be fun, but for me, it's all about watching them grow from timid individuals at the beginning of each semester, to small groups of friends who support each other in class discussions and assignments, to a cohesive group striving toward a common goal. By utilizing all the talents and experiences available within this vast pool of resources, I am a better teacher and they are better learners.

My greatest reward is when students tell me of the impact I've had on their lives. From the single father who presented me with a signed photograph of his four-month-old daughter after semester full of personal upheaval and in spite of such, to the young woman who brings me an six-pack of Diet Coke to say, "Thank you for taking the time to care," each semester brings its rewards disguised as challenges.

Having recently been named a Lambda Pi Eta Mentor by a student who is currently with me for the third class,, I recognize that beyond my fulfillment and satisfaction with teaching lies a much greater responsibility to students like her. If, like with this young woman, I can ignite a spark, prompt a question, raise an eyebrow or provoke a controversy, then I have touched at least one student and that one student's life may change for the better as a result.