

Teachers Who Inspire

From its origins as a teacher college to its recent spree of state Teacher of the Year winners, Salisbury University has a long and exceptional history of producing amazing teachers. Two such teachers were honored with national awards for their excellence.

Carrie Kerchner was named a Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) 2015 Teaching Fellow. The five-year, early-career award is valued at up to \$150,000. Only 34 were honored nationwide; all are promising high school mathematics and science teachers.

Kerchner is a first-year algebra teacher at Wicomico High School. She earned bachelor's degrees in marketing (2004) and mathematics/secondary education (2014) from SU and is starting the M.S. in Mathematics Education Program this fall.

"Over the last 10 years, I realized that teaching mathematics is my true calling," she said, after transitioning from a sales/marketing management career. "I am passionate about mathematics, and ... I cannot think of a better way to use my passion than shaping the minds of children."

KSTF's signature Teaching Fellows Program empowers young teachers to foster educational improvement by reaching thousands of students each year

and taking on leadership roles to strengthen math and science classroom education.

KSTF's goal is to create a sustainable corps of teachers who are trained and supported from the beginning of their careers and have the capacity to drive positive change in the U.S. educational system. This includes combatting challenges related to shortages of quality teachers and lagging student interest and proficiency in STEM areas.

Nominated by students they once taught, Teresa Timmons-Parrott was one of just 13 teachers honored with the 2015 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, which publicly recognize teachers by spotlighting their extraordinary impact on the lives of students.

Timmons-Parrott joined Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools in 2014 as an ESOL instructor and in summer 2016 became its ESOL Department chair. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education (2003) and an M.A. in English with an ESOL concentration (2006) from SU.

"Dedicating my life to guide students, passing down knowledge and helping them



Carrie Kerchner



Teresa Timmons-Parrott

realize they actually have great potential are the true joys of teaching," she explained. "It goes beyond just teaching the material – it's about making a personal connection with the students to help them develop their talents and achieve their goals."

Her nominator Bumjun Kim shared the transformational moment that Timmons-Parrott inspired: "One day, I found myself at a crossroads as I became completely enthralled in a lesson Mrs. Parrott taught about Desi Arnaz ... I couldn't believe it, someone producing the inspirational vibes that music offered also hated school as a young boy and was uprooted from his country to the U.S. as well – I was living this life!"

Timmons-Parrott's SU connections run deep: both of her parents, her husband of 30 years and her daughter are alumni.

Are You Looking to Change Your Career or Advance In Your Current Field?

Both Carrie and Teresa, featured in the story above, came back to SU for graduate school to help reach their long-term career goals. Have you been considering a career change or enhancing your skills to advance your career? It may be time for you to check out SU's graduate programs. There are a variety of offerings – including completely online programs and the new Master of Science in Athletic Training. Or, perhaps the doctoral program in education would be a good fit? With nearly 20 possible degree options, you are sure to find the program that is the right fit. To learn more, visit:

www.salisbury.edu/gsr/gradstudies

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

- Applied Biology (M.S.)
- Applied Health Physiology (M.S.)
- Athletic Training (M.S.A.T.)
- Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution (M.A.)
- Education (M.Ed.)
- Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)
- English (M.A.)
- Geographic Information Systems Management (M.S.)
- History (M.A.)
- Mathematics Education (M.S.M.E.)
- Nursing (M.S.)
- Reading Specialist (M.Ed.)
- Social Work (M.S.W.)
- Teaching (M.A.T.)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Advanced Technology for Enterprise Systems (ATES)
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

- Education - Contemporary Curriculum Theory and Instruction: Literacy (Ed.D.)
- Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

