

Biography of sorts

On behalf of the ESL Department at Palomar College, I would like to nominate long-time faculty member and current dean of Languages and Literature Katheryn Garlow. Rarely will we find a person so dedicated to one institution for so long in so many different capacities. Katheryn received her AA degree in English from Palomar College a very long time ago (1964); she went onto Whittier to receive her BA (1966) in English as well. In 1978, she completed a MA in Linguistics from SDSU. In May 2002, Katheryn completed her dissertation and was awarded her PhD from **Clairemont**; her dissertation title was “English as a Second Language: Academic Credit in the Community College” (see below for more detail). In 1974, Katheryn was hired by Palomar College as a teacher in Bilingual Education. Since that time, Katheryn has played a significant role in the development of the English as a Second Language Department, which began as part of the Bilingual Education Department. She taught for Palomar in Fallbrook eons ago when the only structure available for classes was a shed of sorts. Eventually, she became coordinator of the morning program on campus, taught English to students of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds, provided them with mentoring and academic guidance, participated in overseeing the Bilingual Teacher Corps (a program dedicated to directing bilingual students towards a career in teaching), served as chairperson of the ESL Department at least twice that I know of, and has remained heavily involved serving on the board of the statewide ESL teaching and political body known as CATESOL, as both President (92-93) and Historian (currently). She has published several articles related to ESL learners and has received numerous awards for her efforts. She served as a member of the Work Group on Emerging Modes of Delivery, Certification, and Planning, Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education Kindergarten through University, was a member of the Matriculation Assessment Workgroup for the Chancellor's Office, as well as serving on the California Pathways Project, a Fund for Instructional Improvement grant. We now know her at Palomar as the Dean of Languages and Literature.

Throughout the years, Katheryn arrived as early as 7 a.m. and was seen on campus as late as 7 p.m. She spent endless hours working one-on-one with students, helping them with their class work, not only for their ESL class work but also for other classes such as Psychology, going so far as to attend the class with a group of ESL students in an effort to provide the best support she could for them. Katheryn has always held a special place in her heart for the lower level students, and her advocacy of them has extended well beyond their academic progress; there have been many times over the course of her history with Palomar that she has helped students find child care, offered assistance with issues as difficult and personal as domestic abuse, and worked with students on admission forms to university. Her work at the state level involved political advocacy and recognition for ESL as something well beyond basic skills, helping to gain a credit transfer status for several ESL courses.

Testimonials

Karen Cadiero-Kaplan, the current CATESOL president, writes “What a great honor for her, and well deserved!!!”

Janet Hafner, a long time colleague at Palomar (now retired), writes, “Katheryn does deserve recognition for her years of absolute dedication which began around 1973ish. As long as

I've known her, she has represented fairness. One of her strengths is the ability to look meticulously at both sides of the question before taking a position. She knows all the rules, but she also knows that there may be exceptions to those rules, but not without substantial reason. She has worked long and hard for the benefit of students at Palomar – that's her first love. It is wonderful that her talents and dedication are to be acknowledged."

One of our adjunct instructors Sharon Hightower writes, "How fun to realize that Katheryn is a product of Palomar!

Just wanted to get in on this thread to say how very much I support Katheryn's 'nomination.' It couldn't go to a more deserving person. For some time we were "desk mates," and she always went out of her way to be gracious, gathering up her things when it was "my turn." Hardly an evening went by that I didn't see her huddled over an essay with a student patiently explaining, calmly reviewing some finer point."

Shayla Sivert, a long time colleague here at Palomar, writes, "When I was first hired at Palomar way back when, I remember sitting in the doorway of Katheryn's office for hours at a time, discussing whatever it was that needed discussing. She never made me feel as though I was imposing on her or as though she had to be somewhere else. Through the years, we could disagree on any number of matters, but I always knew that I could count on Katheryn to be fair and thoughtful and willing to discuss the matter evenly, especially once the initial moment of emotion had passed – there had to be passion! What's even more wonderful in my mind is that she treated everyone the same, whether they were a colleague, an administrator, a student, or a prospective student. It's always been about respect for one's humanity, and I can't begin to tell you how much I learned from her attitude."

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Dissertation

English as a Second Language: Academic Credit in the Community College

This study investigated three research questions: whether practices at local community colleges are congruent with categories in Title 5, & sect 55805.5 on assigning credit, what factors have influenced colleges in their decisions to assign particular credit values to ESL courses, and how and why colleges have assigned particular credit types to their ESL courses. This study found that policies on assigning credit are inconsistently applied to ESL courses. It was concluded that ESL professionals should decide what constitutes a degree credit ESL course and how more consistent practices can be achieved.

Should you require further information regarding Katheryn Garlow and this nomination, please contact Shayla Sivert at x2652 or ssivert@palomar.edu.

Sincerely submitted, on behalf of the entire ESL Department at Palomar College,
Shayla Sivert