

MC FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FULL-TIME FACULTY AWARD

Ben Drury is very passionate about student success in and out of the classroom. He demands excellence and his students respond to the challenge.

The first-day requirement for his sociology class is to write a 1,000-word paper due the next class or be dropped. “They love it,” **Drury** says. “Morton College students want to be challenged. I’ve been teaching 10 years and I’ve never come across students who want to be challenged more than Morton College students.”

“He truly wants each and every student to succeed in and out of the classroom,” was the comment that appeared on nomination after nomination for Drury.

This semester, Drury is enjoying teaching a learning community class that combines speech and college student skills. “There’s so much contact with the students,” Drury notes. “We’re deepening their learning and they’re helping us understand them more.”

Beyond the classroom, **Drury** is co-advisor of Phi Theta Kappa, Morton College's chapter of the international honor society for community college students.

Drury's recognition for teaching excellence isn't a first. He was honored in 2011-12 with a teaching award for excellence at Indiana University-Columbus.

Ben is a graduate of Indiana University, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. He remains a die-hard Hoosier basketball fan.

The Morton College Foundation would like to congratulate **Ben Drury** and present him with the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award.

MC FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING PART-TIME FACULTY AWARD

Ms. Sharon Cisneros is in her 10th year as an adjunct instructor at Morton College and needless to say, there's probably not a faculty member around at any college in the country with her skill set.

Sharon teaches business, marketing and biology – what a mix! Science and business. In student nomination forms, Sharon received praise from students in both disciplines.

Students appreciate the way Cisneros presents the material in a way that's enjoyable and easy to understand. She is able to motivate students to give their best effort. One student noted, "She impacts the way I view my education. I'm glad to go to class."

Another wrote, "She talks to you us and cares about us. We're not just a body in a chair to her."

Sharon, who has master's degrees in both business administration and biology, has worked as a veterinary technician and a microbiologist for a water department, finds her greatest fulfillment educating the students of Morton College.

She says, “It’s exhilarating! They are my fountain of youth! I’m proud of all my students. They are respectful and kind and I learn so much from them every semester.”

The Morton College Foundation is honored to present its Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award to **Sharon Cisneros.**

MC FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FULL-TIME CLASSIFIED STAFF AWARD

This year, the standards for the Morton College Foundation's Full and Part-Time Employees of Year were enhanced to align with how each individual recipient meets the institution's core values of compassion, fairness, respect, responsibility, tolerance and truth.

We have three individuals selected for the Morton College Foundation's Outstanding Full-Time Classified Staff Award. The winners are:

Roxanne Barone, Executive Assistant – Office of the Provost;

Xiaoling Gan, Web Content Developer; and

Tsonka Pencheva, Coordinator of Child Care & Pre-School Services

Roxanne Barone

Roxanne exhibits consistent superior performance in service to colleagues, students and the community as well as compassion towards students, faculty and staff.

When two key employees retired from the President's office, Roxanne, as expected, met the challenge by being a stabilizing factor during the

transition to new personnel. In addition to handling her duties with the Office of the Provost, she guided the newcomers to the President's Office through learning the ins and outs at Morton College.

Roxanne has been here 26 years in a full-time capacity and is a font of institutional knowledge. In addition to her full-time duties, Roxanne has pitched in whenever needed and excelled whether it's pinch-hitting to serve as Clerk to the College's Board of Trustees or lining up the faculty and administration at Commencement.

Morton College would simply be lost without Roxanne's guidance.

Xiaoling Gan

Xiaoling works tirelessly on updating, troubleshooting and maintaining all components relating to Blackboard, an Internet-based application that allows instructors to put class materials on the Internet. Blackboard also provides a variety of tools for teaching and learning and is an on-line vehicle for teachers and students to communicate.

Xiaoling provided faculty members with individualized sessions to explain the aspects of Blackboard. She also assists students by explaining how to maneuver through their on-line classes.

There are many times when Blackboard upgrades need to be completed during off-hours. She keeps all informed about the updates and will work until the early morning hours to make sure the changes are working. In fact, Xiaoling will do extensive testing before rolling out any updates.

Morton College is lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable employee. Her talents benefit our faculty and our students greatly.

Tsonka Pencheva

Tsonka displays all of our core values. In addition to teaching, she supervises the staff in our Child Learning Center with respect, tolerance, fairness and compassion. She recently helped open our full-time center to assist the community's need for quality in early childhood care, all the while doing so with a smile on her face and kindness in her heart. She is always kind and displays an optimistic attitude toward the students and their children.

She engages with the community to assess ways herself and her team can better improve the quality of the Child Learning Center so it can be a better place for Morton College and our residents.

The Morton College Foundation is pleased to bestow its Outstanding Full-Time Classified Staff Award to **Roxanne Barone, Xiaoling Gan** and **Tsonka Pencheva**.

MC FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING PART-TIME CLASSIFIED STAFF AWARD

Ashley De Loera is the recipient of this award. She is the Recruitment Assistant in the Office of Admissions and Records.

During an employee's medical leave, Ashley went "above and beyond" the call of duty by providing students interested in Morton College's health care programs accurate and complete information.

She does a tremendous amount of work updating the data bases in keeping track of the several hundred students who apply to the College's health care programs. Her peers note Ashley immediately is able to respond to student questions.

As a part-time employee, Ashley may here only 19 hours per week, but she makes every second count. Her on-the-job performance always has been excellence and she is a credit to Morton College.

The Morton College Foundation is pleased to give its Outstanding Part-Time Classified Staff Award to Ashley DeLoera.