

Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Sara Helmus, Chemistry Instructor

The Wall Street Journal recently ran an obituary on billionaire Jon Huntsman, the founder of a global chemical company. In high school, Huntsman dropped out of a high school chemistry class after deciding he would never have use for that sort of knowledge.

Too bad Huntsman didn't have Dr. Sara Helmus for chemistry. Dr. Helmus, the Morton College Foundation's Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year, wouldn't have let Huntsman walk away.

Her office is a beehive of activity as students seek her out for additional instruction or advice. Students who don't fully understand the material appreciate her patience and positive approach.

Dr. Helmus, a full-time faculty member at Morton College since the Fall of 2013, motivates her students by finding the lighter side

of science. Her wardrobe includes a scarf and shoes with the periodic table of elements.

Dr. Helmus holds a doctoral degree in theoretical chemistry from The Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a minor in physics from Millikin University.

She became a teacher so she could share her passion for chemistry with others. Her hope is that she is able to remove the apprehension many feel about the topic and make them want to know more.

Dr. Helmus is the faculty co-advisor for the Science Club and Morton College's STEM Coordinator in the Illinois Skyway competition.

In addition, Dr. Helmus engages in committee work with her fellow faculty members. She is a valued member of the Academic Assessment Planning Committee. On that committee, Dr. Helmus was responsible for developing an essential rubric that grades the committee's assessment of Critical Thinking.

In recognition of Dr. Helmus' contributions and commitment to student success, she is deserving of being selected as the Morton College Foundation's Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year.