

TBR High Impact Practice Ambassador Bios – 2022 Cohort

Raquel Adams

Institution: Southwest Tennessee Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s): Bachelor's in photography, (Univ of Oklahoma), MFA (Memphis College of Art)

How long have you worked at your institution? 9 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Intro to Art, International Studies, Equity & Inclusion, Technology Enhanced Learning

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach? Building relationships and uplifting student voice.

Sara Amato

Institution: Cleveland State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- B.A. Secondary English Education - Millikin University
- M.A. English (Composition and Rhetoric) - Eastern Illinois University
- In progress: EdD (Curriculum and Instruction, focus on Instructional Design and Technology) - University of Virginia

How long have you worked at your institution?

- Adjunct: 2016-2020
- Full-time: 2020-Present

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)?

- Composition
- American literature
- Online/hybrid learning and course design
- Honors education

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

I appreciate the dynamic learning opportunities HIPs provide to students, which deepen their efforts, expand applications, and further real-world practices.

Oakley Atterson

Institution: Pellissippi State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- MA, English Literature, University of Tennessee

How long have you worked at your institution? Five years**What is your teaching/research focus area(s)?** I teach a mix of English and ESOL courses. However, my current research is related to my in-progress M.Ed. in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership with a concentration in Global Studies in Education at the University of Illinois.**What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?**

I most appreciate the way the Global Cultural Awareness HIP can engage students in global issues or topics that may initially seem quite distant from their everyday lives and lead them to see how their lives are actually connected to these issues in significant ways.

Lacey Bennis

Institution: Columbia State Community College**Degrees earned and institution(s):**

- A.A., Rend Lake College - Liberal Arts (1996)
- B.S., Southern Illinois University - Speech Communication (1998)
- M.S., Southern Illinois University - Speech Communication (2000)
- Ed.D., Northeastern University - Professional Studies (2015)

How long have you worked at your institution? 20 years**What is your teaching/research focus area(s)?** Communication Studies, including interpersonal and intercultural communication**What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?**

Study abroad literally opens the world to our students, providing the opportunity for growth, connection, and a greater understanding of our global society. Students are immersed within the content in a way not possible while in a traditional classroom. They are able to apply abstract concepts to their daily experience, creating engaging and poignant learning. When they return home, students have increased their cultural capital, building communication skills while also developing a better sense of their own identities and value in the world.

Tammie Bolling

Institution: Pellissippi State Community College**Degrees earned and institution(s):**

- WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, Ogden, Utah
Received: Health Information Management Graduate Certificate.
- KAPLAN UNIVERSITY, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Received: Master of Science in Psychology – Applied Behavior Analysis
- UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, Phoenix, Arizona
Received: Doctor of Education - Leadership
- BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, Bristol Tennessee
Received: Master of Business Administration and Healthcare Management (Dual Degree)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE, Wise, Virginia
Received: B.S. in Business and Public Administration/Accounting/Psychology
- MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Big Stone Gap, Virginia
Received: A.S. and A.A.S. in Business Administration/General Studies/Accounting

How long have you worked at your institution? Pellissippi State Community College: 10 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Computer Information Technology, Business, and Administrative Professional Technology

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The HIP program provides opportunities to enhance and expand learning. Embedding industry recognized certifications into coursework enables students to achieve an external global recognition of their level of knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Angie Elkins

Institution: Walters State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- BS in Sociology – Appalachian State University
- MA in Sociology – East Tennessee State University
- Graduate Certificate in Instructional Design – University of Memphis
- MS in Instructional Design – University of Memphis
- Ed.D. in Educational Leadership – East Tennessee State University

How long have you worked at your institution? 7 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Social Work and Sociology. I'm particularly interested in self-care in helping professionals and recently developed a 1 credit course focusing on self-care.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

- I love that my students have the ability to see first hand some of the things they will be doing once they complete their degrees – having that hands on experience really can give students a better idea of what they are looking at for their future and better clarify their educational and career goals.
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Elvira Eivazova

Institution: Columbia State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- M.S. in Physiology and Biochemistry from Moscow State University
- Ph.D. in Biology/Microbial Immunology from the Academy of Medicine.
- Trained at the University of London in England, UK, after which I joined Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

How long have you worked at your institution? I have worked at my institution now for six years, where I am an Associate Professor of Biology.

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? I teach Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Undergraduate Biology Research and Honors Biology courses. My focus area of research is bacteriophage biology and genomics.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The Research HIP that I have infused into my Biology Research project-based courses is a fantastic tool for learning science and elevating student success. What I appreciate the most is that I can be a part of the incredible achievements of my students.

Anna Esquivel

Institution: Jackson State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- B.A. Psychology, Christian Brothers University
- M.A. English, University of Memphis
- Ph.D. Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Memphis

How long have you worked at your institution? 8.5 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? African-American Literature, Composition, Women's and Gender Studies; global learning and study abroad.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Experiential learning, particularly study abroad, transforms the content of the course or discipline into something concrete and relevant to the students own lives. Studying abroad immerses students in

experiences that challenge the familiar and comfortable; it equips them with the tools to facilitate meaningful connections between themselves and the host culture. When we enhance students' learning by asking them to engage with cultures different from their own—be it through travel or through classroom or campus programming—we teach them to interrogate their assumptions and consider new ways of thinking, to see themselves as global citizens in a diverse, complex world.

Tracey Farr

Institution: Pellissippi State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- BA Political Science, University of Tennessee
- Master of Arts, Organizational Management, Tusculum University

How long have you worked at your institution? Part time since 2005, Full-time Faculty since 2016

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Business Management—Assistant Professor, Academic Coordinator for Service-Learning

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Service-Learning creates transformational experiences by aligning course learning outcomes with real time community needs. Now more than ever, our students need to understand their role as a citizen and connect their learning experiences with ways that engage and support the greater community.

Tabetha Garman

Institution: Northeast State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- Lees McRae College BA History
- East TN State University MA History
- East TN State University Currently Enrolled: EdD Leadership

How long have you worked at your institution? 10 years +

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Civil Disobedience in American History; Impact of Honors Programs on Community; Online Education

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

HIPs give me the tools to reach students where they are, to engage them, to turn them in to active learners, and to instill in them a love of learning for learning's sake that will last a lifetime.

Andrea Green

Institution: Motlow State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s): MA (English) – The University of Alabama; BA (English) – Middle Tennessee State University

How long have you worked at your institution? – 6 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)?- Teaching focus: developmental writing and American literature; Research focus: developmental writing and foodways/poverty in southern literature

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Through HIPs, students can explore how concepts they learn in the classroom relate directly to their field of study. They also learn how the skills they develop can transfer to their nonacademic lives. I implement HIPs in all my courses because I believe that an effective pedagogy hinges on an integrative approach to learning. Students must see the classroom experience as one that influence all aspects of their lives. To that end, I include reflection activities throughout the semester, and I offer frequent feedback regarding student progress.

Nancy Hamilton

Institution: Roane State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- B.S. Early Childhood Education, Tennessee Tech University
- M.Div. Counseling and Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Ed.S. Educational Psychology, Tennessee Tech University
- Ed.D. Educational Leadership & Management, Capella University

How long have you worked at your institution? 11 years total (2 stints, 2007-2009, then 2013-present)

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? First Year Experience, College Learning Strategies (COLS) 1010

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The First Year Experience course equips students for practical application of relevant study strategies in any area of study, as well as providing hands-on, collaborative learning experiences for preparing students for needed life skills and future employment. In addition, our program has recruited a quality instructional team made up of 45+ instructors who teach full-time in K-12 education in the 8 service areas where RSCC is located. This partnership with local elementary, middle, and high school educators has influenced the COLS 1010 curriculum with customized strategies to prepare students for academic and professional success.

Lauren Jordan

Institution: Pellissippi State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- Bachelor of Science in Human Learning and Master of Art in Curriculum from Tennessee Tech University
- ESL endorsement from Johnson University

How long have you worked at your institution? I have worked at Pellissippi State since 2012. I began as an adjunct and transitioned to full-time in 2017.

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? My graduate research focus was curriculum development and reading in the content areas. I have used this consistently in my position at Pellissippi State where I teach co-requisite reading and First Year Experience.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The First Year Experience is a vital part of the college community in anchoring students on campus through social belonging activities and campus engagement. I enjoy being a part of students' first year (and often their first semester) as they learn what college is all about as I work alongside them to help them find their niches in the college community.

Sandy Kirby

Institution: Cleveland State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- Master of Science in Management and Leadership
 - Western Governors University – WGU Tennessee
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: Human Resources & Finance
 - Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, TN

How long have you worked at your institution? Almost 5 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Work-Based Learning and Job Placement

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Incorporating Work-Based Learning into curriculum and programs of study allows students to connect what they are learning in the classroom to actual careers, jobs, and opportunities they otherwise wouldn't be exposed to! Providing students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experiences to add to their resumes and skill set is key for student success and retention.

Walter McCord

Institution: Motlow State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- BBA, MBA – Middle Tennessee State University

How long have you worked at your institution? 4 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Work-based learning; Cyber Defense

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Looking at education in other ways than the traditional model.

Eric Niemi

Institution: Chattanooga State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- Northern Illinois University - Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education, with certificates in College Teaching and Post-Secondary Literacy and Language Development

How long have you worked at your institution? 6 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? I teach primarily English Comp 1 and Comp 2, along with our College Success Humanities course.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

Working with students on their projects and watching them become emerging professionals is invigorating. They bring their own problems to assignments, and I enjoy working with them to gather data supporting their solutions. Additionally, it is rewarding to see and listen to them present their research during our bi-annual Student Research and Creative Showcase.

Nona M. Shepherd

Institution: Northeast State

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- B.A. in English from University of Virginia at Wise
- M.A. in English from East Tennessee State University

How long have you worked at your institution? 15+ years full-time (5+ years with International Education)

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Composition & world mythology (my passion!) And International Education dovetails well with my study of world cultures via mythology.

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

I most appreciate studying the commonalities amongst cultures & belief systems, which reinforce the shared human experience, as well as witnessing students' discovery during International Education events & travels.

Debra Collins Simpson (Debbie)

Institution: Motlow State Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- M. ED Education, Curriculum and Instruction, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- B. S. Education, Middle Tennessee State University

How long have you worked at your institution? 8 years

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? Education and Early Childhood Education

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The High Impact Practices I have employed do make a difference in the level of learning for the students. They move from remembering and comprehending to analyzing and evaluating information. This helps students incorporate new information into their knowledge base. As students become more successful working with new information, they become more determined to meet their academic and professional goals.

The opportunity for students to connect theory and practice to related experiences with diverse groups outside the classroom assists students in understanding the relevance of the material. This increases the student's persistence toward academic and life goals.

Engaging students in meaningful assignments in which they apply new information beyond the classroom is something that I appreciate about HIP's. Students research and reflect on a topic and share with their classmates and describe how that research will impact their future role as a classroom teacher.

We have developed a capstone class which brings together knowledge from previous courses.

Ryan Stenbridge

Institution: Southwest Tennessee Community College

Degrees earned and institution(s):

- MFA in Creative Writing, UofM - English and History BA

How long have you worked at your institution? Three years as full-time faculty

What is your teaching/research focus area(s)? English Composition and Support

What do you appreciate most about the HIP(s) that you have infused into the courses you teach?

The ability to link prewriting activities in English support directly with corresponding essay assignments, to align curriculum, and allowing more time for student collaboration and connection

Charles Whiting

Institution: Motlow State Community College

(AKA Chuck Whiting) is a Nashville-based educator, publicist, music publisher, author, songwriter and photographer who serves as Assistant Professor of Mass Communications for Motlow State Community College (Smyrna Center). His company, Music City Arts Network, has represented a wide range of artists in genres ranging from music to the visual arts. He also is the founder of the monthly "Tunesmithing" songwriters showcase in Nashville. Chuck is the co-songwriter/co-author of the holiday song and storybook "The Littlest Star" featuring Margo Smith, Denny Jiosa and Connie Ellisor. His publishing company, Striking Moon Music, handles the song catalog of the late Marcia Jones, whose song "Closer Than We've Ever Been" was featured in the Hallmark movie "Lake Effects." Chuck's songs and compositions can be heard on two recent albums, "Dreamer On The Prowl" and "Going Full Circle: A Solo Piano Album."