

From: [Mike F](#)
To: [CCC Board of Education](#)
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Hello,

My name is Mike Farrell. I am full time faculty and teach in Engineering and Electronics Engineering Technology. I joined CCC in 2018 after teaching at PCC for 10 years. My first year at CCC I was enrolled in First Year Faculty Experience.

I told all of my old colleagues at PCC about FYFE. I told them how excited I was about being at a college that valued instruction. How this was the first time anyone had ever taken the time to help me learn how to teach.

I think I was a good teacher at PCC. But I didn't know anything about how to teach. I was just learning on the job. I believed in what I was doing, but I was never sure if it was good practice or not. In FYFE, I learned about Growth Mindset and Belonging. I learned about how authenticity and transparency can improve student outcomes. These are all ideas that immediately clicked for me. This is what I have been looking for. Knowing these ideas gave me the confidence to try things in my class that I was thinking about. These ideas allowed me to rework my assignments. Previously, my class approach and assignments were based on historically held values of how I had experienced engineering education. Now I knew how to branch away from that into ways that felt true to me but also were rooted in solid pedagogical research.

At PCC, I heard the term "Guide on the Side" vs "Sage on the Stage." I didn't know what those meant and nobody there could tell me how that could look in my classroom. After taking FYFE, not only did I have ideas on how to implement that in my classroom, but I had people that I knew would and could help me.

I redid most of my classes and assignments. My goal was to find ways to connect with my students. I wanted them to be excited about the program, their class, and to understand why I was asking them to complete the activities in the class. Being transparent about why we are doing some activities and not others is world changing for me. It allows me to really be engaged and own what we are doing. I don't assign activities just because I "should". I assign them because they advance the learning goals and I explain to students why these assignments are important. FYFE has helped me learn to bring the students into their learning process.

Students routinely tell me that they appreciate how much I care about their success. That they made it through the program because they knew I cared. They tell me they appreciate how I show up for them in the

classroom. These are specific skills that I learned in FYFE.

Many of the Associate Faculty in EET are very new to teaching. They are alumni that came back to CCC because I asked them for help. They came back because of the connection that we built while they were in the program. They look to me for guidance and mentorship. I feel confident giving them advice and help because of the ideas about belonging and authenticity I learned in FYFE. Those alumni / associate faculty are here because of the seeds and growth planted in FYFE.

First Year Faculty Experience needs to be funded at full capacity. The good that it does cannot be measured in numbers. The good that it does has ripples that echo throughout the college for years.

Please share this with all members.

Stay Well

Mike