



Office of Marketing and Public Information
Bob Burchette 336-334-4822, Ext. 2566
Coretta Montague 336-334-4822, Ext. 2487

Guilford Technical Community College
Jamestown, N. C. 27282

Contact: ROBurchette@gtcc.edu
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CHANDRA NOEL ALLEN WINS NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD

JAMESTOWN – Chandra Noel Allen, a math teacher at Guilford Technical Community College, has won the National Association for Developmental Education’s Outstanding Alumnus Award.

The award will be presented March 12 at the association’s national meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Allen won the award after earlier capturing the state award for the N.C. Association for Developmental Education, according to Stephanie Rook of Greenville, president of the state association.

Rook said that Allen’s “dedication to excellence in the classroom is exemplary.”

Ironically, Allen was placed in a developmental education class to improve her math skills when she enrolled at GTCC in 1995.

Allen, who lives in Kernersville with her son Joshua Allen-St. John, said that she was inspired by her success as a math student to become a math teacher.

Allen also is recognized by her peers at GTCC as an extraordinary instructor for helping students struggling with math. Tutoring Center coordinator Betty Kittner describes Allen as the “perfect role model for developmental education students, (who) shares her ‘dream come true’ in the classroom.”

Kittner nominated Allen for the state award, saying her “enthusiasm is contagious.”

“I never thought much about math in high school,” said Allen, who graduated from high school in Fort Meyers, Fla. “I never had a passion for math until I got here (GTCC). When I was a student at GTCC, the math courses were the only ones that kept my attention 100 percent of the time,” she said.

Allen credits instructor Bob Thomas, now retired, for starting her on a career as a math teacher. “From my first encounter with Bob Thomas at GTCC, I knew my goal in life – to be that inspiration to someone else in the classroom. I’m still working on the finesse of it all.”

She also got a boost from other instructors, including Kittner with whom she worked for five years after getting her degree at GTCC.

She worked as a tutor and lab assistant in the Tutoring Center under Kittner’s supervision after getting a two-year Associate of Science degree.

Allen attended UNCG for awhile before returning to Ft. Meyers where she earned both a Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree in math at Florida Gulf Coast University. “I taught math in middle school and high school in Naples, Fla., before I got a job at GTCC in 2007,” Allen said.

Besides Thomas and Kittner, David Barnette, who still teaches at GTCC, and Thomas Beatty at Florida Gulf Coast University, were instructors who “had my attention and would give me a glimpse into another world. Mathematics can be a very fascinating subject,” Allen said.

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