

2023-2024 Endowed Chairs for Learning Leadership Distinguished Professors – Category One

Mark Guillette, Professor, Sociology
Patricia Havill Whalen Chair in Social Sciences
\$9,600

A Sociologist in Nigeria

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is experiencing rapid population and economic growth. Despite its immense potential, Nigeria continues to struggle with high levels of corruption, particularly in relation to its abundant natural resources, such as oil. In order to gain firsthand knowledge of Nigerian culture, economy, politics and social institutions, Mark will embark on a research trip to Nigeria. By immersing himself in the local context, he aims to deepen his understanding and awareness of the sociological factors that contribute to Nigeria's development challenges. Upon his return, Mark will share his insights and experiences with his sociology students, enriching their understanding of global social dynamics.

Vasudha Sharma, Professor, Chemistry
Wayne Densch Chair in Geriatrics
\$7,800

Creation of a Cost-free Lab Learning Library (OER) To Foster Student Learning for Chemistry Students With a Focus on Experiential Learning Through Geriatrics

This Endowed Chair will support the generation of a digital library of core concepts within General Chemistry through the lens of experiential learning available in Osceola Campus Science. In order to support the different learning styles of Valencia students, Vasudha will create digital resources using best practices in science education. Availability of cost-free resources through Canvas will remove some inequitable barriers in student learning.

Upasana Santra, Professor, Mathematics
Lockheed Martin Chair in Mathematics
\$6,400

Statistics Reasoning Pathway: Creating a Community of Learners Through Interdisciplinary Partnerships

Recognizing the significance of statistical reasoning in various academic programs, Upasana aims to create a community of learners through interdisciplinary partnerships. Specifically, Upasana will collaborate with faculty across different majors and librarians to establish a mentor-supported repository of relevant data for statistical analysis. This collegewide initiative will enable students to make data-driven decisions within their academic programs and future careers. By emphasizing real-world applications, Upasana seeks to enhance students' statistical literacy and critical thinking skills, contributing to their overall academic and professional success.

Melissa Pedone, Professor, Mathematics
University Club of Orlando Chair in Humanities
\$6,200

Valuing Latin American History, Culture and Language in General Education Mathematics

Students often approach the study of mathematics with anxiety and trepidation. Providing a welcoming and familiar learning environment helps to reduce this anxiety and improve classroom engagement. Melissa will use this chair to deepen her understanding of Latin America's history, culture and language, which will demonstrate her value of our diverse student population and improve her ability to personally connect with students and culturally enrich the application problems taught in her general education mathematics courses. She will participate in both virtual and in-person travel experiences and Spanish language learning that will enable her to more deeply connect with students on a personal level to build a positive rapport and reduce anxiety in class, which is often a barrier to learning mathematics.

Barbara Pierre, Professor, Health Navigator
Grace Gillen Hanna Chair in Nursing
\$6,100

Comparative Study of Healthcare in Switzerland and the U.S.

Homing in on the lessons learned from the Coronavirus global pandemic, this project seeks to make meaningful connections by developing comparative and international public health education knowledge and creatively solving real-world global health issues. Considered to have one of the best healthcare systems in the world, a short study to Switzerland in preparation for future anticipated study abroad programs and program practicum opportunities will facilitate building social capital, enhance curriculum design and instructional competencies, increase intercultural awareness and communication competencies and stimulate research and publication partnerships. Furthermore, with the realization of this project, students in the Health Navigator program and others within Health Sciences will increase awareness of the implications of health from a global perspective to strengthen their ability to ultimately join a team of healthcare providers that will help guide patients through their health care journey in this interconnected world.

Peter Furlong, Professor, Humanities
John and Florence MacLeod Chair in Business
\$5,800

Business Ethics and the Holocaust

Peter will travel to Yad Vashem to research the relationship between Nazi Germany (especially regarding the Holocaust) and businesses, with an emphasis on non-German companies. From research there, as well as independent research, he intends to construct a business-ethics module for his PHI 2600 course that examines the moral responsibilities of businesses. Peter plans to highlight the actions of Thomas Watson and his company, IBM, as a case study. Watson's case is especially interesting because, although he agreed to supply Hitler with help in tabulating census information that would eventually be used to further anti-Semitic efforts, some argue that he was merely following free market forces, which must be amoral (and so are not immoral).

AnnMarie O’Neil, Professor, Mathematics
Freeda Foreman Chair in Collaborative and Creative Problem-Solving
\$5,800

Advancing Online Learning in the Virtual College Algebra Classroom Through Active Learning and Collaborative Problem-solving

The number of students enrolled in online college algebra classes at Valencia College has tripled since before the pandemic, indicating a growing demand for high-quality online learning and support. AnnMarie aims to create a comprehensive online college algebra course emphasizing active learning and collaborative problem-solving among students. Additionally, she plans to evaluate student learning and success within the course and their performance in subsequent courses, as well as collect qualitative data on their experiences. Through this analysis, she hopes to gain a deeper understanding of how to enhance the effectiveness of online learning and provide better support for students.

Matthew Kenney, Professor, Business
Bank of America Chair in Business Management
\$5,700

Neuroscience for Business

Matthew will complete a six-week Neuroscience for Business course offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Sloan School of Business. Course content will focus on neuroplasticity and other neuroscience concepts within business management. He will apply course concepts within an Introduction to Business course to enhance student engagement and success.

Tullio Bushrui, Counselor
Chelsey G. Magruder Foundation Chair in Allied Health
\$5,500

Mental Health First Aid Instruction for Faculty, Staff and Students

Receiving the 2022-2023 Endowed Chair last year allowed Tullio and one other counselor to become certified curriculum instructors. Receiving an Endowed Chair this year will allow them to purchase the materials to deliver the training to the Valencia community. The Mental Health First Aid course teaches the risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

Gerald Hensel, Professor, Computer Programming and Analysis
Bank of America Chair in Business
\$5,200

Exploring Equitable Business Practices Abroad: Analyzing International Relationships and AI Innovation in Spain

The Endowed Chair will facilitate Gerald’s effort to take students overseas to investigate how businesses utilize technology to promote equitable business practices. Their itinerary includes a visit to Spain to observe its diverse cultural and business practices. Additionally, students will analyze the advancement of international business relationships through the use of artificial intelligence.

Angelica Vagle, Professor, Chemistry
Lockheed Martin Chair in Science
\$5,100

Virtual Chemistry Lab Simulations to Enhance Active Learning in the Real Chemistry Lab

This project will investigate the effects of virtual lab simulations as pre-lab activities for the on-site chemistry lab experience. The effects will be assessed using cognitive and skill-based learning outcomes during the real laboratory experience.

Heather Ramsier, Professor, Political Science
Abe and Tess Wise Endowed Chair in the Study of the Shoah
\$5,100

Memorializing History: Reflecting, Researching and Studying Abroad in Germany

Students will develop undergraduate research skills related to the memorialization of history by participating in interdisciplinary ethnographic and sociocultural studies as part of the IDH 2955 class. Their understanding will be enhanced via a study abroad experience in Germany, touching upon how history has been memorialized from the 14th to the 20th century. Place as Text will allow students to engage in neighborhood exploration and interviews with German citizens and scholars to further their research to establish a biannual experiential education opportunity incorporating multiple active learning strategies and social science connections.

Richard Sansone, Professor, Portuguese
Howard L. Palmer Chair in Foreign Languages
\$4,900

Bringing the World to Valencia Through Zoom

Richard will enrich and expand our students' worldview by developing on-site human resources in a Portuguese-speaking country, thereby creating the conditions for our on-site expert(s) to create future virtual "voyages" for our students through Zoom. Each voyage/event will include a thematic slide show of photos and video clips as well as real-time interaction with the expert, who will also share a special local recipe. Students gathered to Zoom together on-site at Valencia will be able to sample the recreation of the recipe as it is being presented.

Irina Struganova, Professor, Physics
Lester N. Mandell Chair in Natural and Physical Sciences
\$4,500

Developing Electron Charge to Mass Ratio Experiment for Introductory Physics Courses

Concepts of electric charge, electrons, electromagnetic field and motion of charged particles are challenging for students enrolled in introductory physics courses. This is partially because students cannot "see" and properly visualize these concepts. Introducing classical electron charge to mass ratio experiment in the lab curriculum will enable students to see a path left by electrons and how a magnetic field influences this path and analyze the data using basic laws and principles of physics.

Chiara Ojeda, Professor, English
Sue Luzadder Chair in Communications
\$4,300

Developing Interactive Multimedia Lessons to Foster Student Success in College-level Writing: English Academic Refreshers

The English Academic Refreshers Course (EARs), which Valencia students currently use in several disciplines (developmental reading and writing, composition, literature, business, science, speech, anthropology and humanities), refreshes students' understanding of reading, writing and grammar. However, student learning in the EARs is limited to passive video and text-based lessons and multiple-choice quizzes, and the method for tracking participation and grading the work is tedious for faculty. This project proposes converting the EARs from a stand-alone, self-enroll Canvas course to interactive, self-contained multimedia lessons that can be more easily used by faculty and students.

2023-2024 Endowed Chairs for Learning Leadership Distinguished Professors – Category Two

Coleen Cox, Professor, Nursing
Harry J. and E. Mary Hobbs Teaching Chair in Nursing
\$41,000

Holistic Community Wellness International Service-Learning Experience

This Endowed Chair will provide scholarships for a service learning, study abroad to Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. This project will provide a low-cost opportunity for students to study abroad and expose them to pursuing nursing as their future profession.

Julie Phelps, Professor, Mathematics
Raymer F. Maguire Jr. Teaching Chair
\$17,900

Who's Doing the Thinking in These Mathematics Classrooms (F2F, Mixed-mode and Online)?

Educators often wonder how to cultivate a classroom culture that prompts students to say things like, “Can we stay longer?” “Let me prove to you why I’m right,” or “How come nobody ever told me to think like this before?” Mathematics faculty will utilize research conducted by national mathematics organizations as well as insights gleaned from a group of faculty working on a Valencia High Impact Practice plan focused on active learning and Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) cohort. Faculty will attend professional mathematics conferences to learn about BTC and use this knowledge to collaborate on designing at least three lessons geared toward the STEM Pathway mathematics courses. They will then put these ideas into practice to extend their understanding of the BTC principles of practice posited by Larsen and Liljedahl (2022).

Bryan Spangler, Professor, Emergency Medical Services
Ira Vinson Henderson Chair in Nursing and Allied Health
\$10,900

EMS World 2023

This project will allow eight Valencia College paramedic students, along with two EMS faculty, to attend the EMS World 2023 international EMS conference in New Orleans in September 2023.

Raul Valery, Professor, Music Production Technology
Walt Disney World Chair in Film Technology
\$7,800

Original Short Film With Immersive Audio Soundtrack

This project's objective is to produce a short film in collaboration with the Film program, as well as other programs, with the production and mixing of a full soundtrack that includes specially composed music recorded in our studios with and by our students, with sound effects and Foley tracks made mostly by our students and mixed in Dolby Atmos Immersive Audio for cinematic release. This film will also be used to present to prospective students so they can see how several programs and different disciplines collaborate in achieving the same goal.

Heith Hennel, Professor, Information Technology
Dr. P. Phillips Foundation Chair in Free Enterprise
\$7,600

Harnessing the Potential of Artificial Intelligence in International Innovation

This Endowed Chair will cover the expenses for attending the Educause Annual Conference and scholarships for study abroad students. The conference aims to provide faculty members access to innovative technology and solutions, facilitate networking opportunities with peers and keep them updated with the latest trends in higher education. Heith will participate in this event and present his research on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education. His focus will be on leveraging AI for content creation and app development, enabling business and IT students to create prototype apps swiftly for study abroad purposes. This approach will allow study abroad students to create their own apps for their trips.

Dominic DiPaolo, Professor, Digital Media
University Club of Orlando Chair in Advanced Computer Technology
\$7,000
Intercultural Faculty Exchange Koning Willem I College

Following the success of his 2023 Endowed Chair with Koning Willem I College, Dominic plans to further enhance student learning by supporting a faculty exchange between Valencia College and Koning Willem I College. Faculty from Koning Willem I College will come to Orlando and host intensive workshops in 3D modeling, digital drawing, animation and computer programming during the 2023-2024 academic year. Faculty from Koning Willem will join colleagues from Valencia's School of Arts and Entertainment to host workshops as well as guest lectures in classes and mentor students for 10 days. These funds will also enable the purchase of a 3D printer to allow students to print the 3D models they create in the faculty led workshops.

Bonnie Oliver and Ghazala Ahmad, Professors, Economics
SunTrust Chair in Economic Development and Business Education
\$5,800

Economic Educational Enhancement

This chair aims to enhance and update the recipients' knowledge of economic development (specifying poverty, urbanization or technological unemployment). Bonnie and Ghazala will accomplish this objective by attending a conference(s) about one or more topics. They will take the obtained information from the seminars and apply it to course material used in the classrooms. The goal is to obtain updated information about the topics under investigation.

Rebecca Newman, Professor, Communications and Journalism, and Courtney Moore, Librarian
Cliff and Daisy Whitehill Chair in Legal Studies
\$5,200

First Amendment Day

This Endowed Chair will support a day-long event for Valencia College students to acknowledge the consequences of censorship and to celebrate the uniquely American constitutional truths of the First Amendment — freedom of the press, speech, religion, assembly and petition.

Joanne Goodman, Professor, Hospitality and Tourism
Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association Chair in Hospitality Management
\$5,000

Student Experience Chicago Food Show

Students will experience the National Restaurant Association Food Show in Chicago. Faculty will also partner with local chefs to provide students a tour of their restaurants and chef demonstration experiences.

Jennifer Papoula, Counselor
Tupperware Corporation Chair in Community Quality
\$4,700
West Campus Sensory Room

This chair will support the research and development of a sensory room on West Campus where students can recharge in a safe space. A sensory room uses easily controlled sensory equipment such as dim lighting, white noise machines, bubble walls, weighted blankets, diverse seating options, textured pillows and other items to provide a calming area for students to decompress and manage stress or overstimulation. This chair will also support the purchase of HeartMath Assessment Provider training and supplies to improve students' ability to track stress and well-being over time. The HeartMath Assessment will be conducted in the sensory room.

**Sidra Van De Car and Michelle Karkkainen, Professors, Mathematics
Displaced Homemakers Endowed Chair
\$4,500**

Part-time Faculty Teaching Awards

To honor our part-time faculty and assist in their professional development, Sidra and Michelle will institute an award program based on the submission of a structured teaching portfolio. Part-time faculty will be provided with a template that recommends professional development courses that will support the creation of each element of the portfolio. The portfolio submission will include a reflection on a prompt similar to: reflect on how your practice affects the displaced homemaker.

**April Engel and Kristin Bartholomew, Professors, Nutrition
Raymer F. Maguire Jr. Endowed Chair in Communications
\$3,900**

Valencia Student Nutrition Manuals

Poor nutrition among college students can negatively impact health and impair academic performance. Poor nutrition intake can result from food insecurity, lack of time to prepare healthy meals, or simply misinformation and lack of knowledge. These funds will be used to print more Valencia Nutrition Manuals for Students to expand distribution across the College and include a variety of nutrition information, affordable and nutritious recipes, and resource information for food insecure students.

**Suzanne Salapa, Professor, Dance
Universal Orlando Chair in Arts and Entertainment
\$3,700**

Spring Dance Concert: An Evening of Jon Lehrer: The Jon Lehrer Dance Company, Dance Residency

This chair will support a dance residency/master class program with renowned guest artist Jon Lehrer, founder and artistic director of the Jon Lehrer Dance Company (JLDC). JLDC offers residency programs to foster cultural exchange, understanding and enrichment at a professional level of dance education to students of all backgrounds.

**Steven Rujak, Professor, Culinary/Pastry Management
Central Florida Restaurant Association Chair in Restaurant and Food Service
Management
\$4,300**

Study Abroad Italy 2024

Students will learn about various Italian cooking techniques and hospitality at the University of Florence. As part of the experience, students will explore traditional Italian menu items and the effect of tradition on the European diet. Students will visit food halls and several markets in central Florence. The class will also take walking tours of Florence, Pienza and Pasa, visiting cheese factories and museums in history and art.

Melissa Schreiber, Professor, Biology
Chelsey G. Magruder Foundation Chair in Health and Life Science
\$2,300

Service Learning in Portugal

Students will understand the importance of ocean conservation in both the U.S. and abroad and will actively engage and complete service learning focused on ocean conservation efforts on the east coast of Florida and connect the experience when they explore Lisbon and Faro in Portugal. Students will complete five hours of service learning in Florida and 20 hours in Portugal.