

## Debbie Atwood

### 2021 FLAM Friend of World Languages Award



The Friend of World Languages Award is to be presented to an individual or group from outside the world language teaching profession who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of world languages.

Debbie Atwood is our Friend of Foreign Language Award recipient and she who is a gifted tutor for students at Metropolitan Community College of Kansas City (MCC).

As a former MCC student, Debbie studied language and stated that "[l]earning Spanish and traveling to other countries has been a phenomenal way to expand my worldview, to experience other cultures, and to communicate with other Spanish speakers." The language skills she developed opened doors for her to begin tutoring other students.

Currently, Debbie is a highly-sought after Spanish and writing tutor for students on the MCC-Longview campus and beyond. Debbie

does not simply tutor students, but rather fosters a love for learning with all students with whom she interacts. Additionally, she maintains high standards for students while being their cheerleader. She is enthusiastic about language learning, but is also passionate about helping students "learn how they learn" and teaching them strategies that will serve them well beyond their current coursework.

During the pandemic, Debbie worked outside of the box to provide virtual tutoring services for students, often making herself available on Zoom outside of her work day and using the GroupMe app to foster a sense of community for the classes with which she worked. Debbie models what it looks like to be a curious learner and also a life-long learner. She shared that "I look forward to developing my language skills further, traveling, and looking for ways to serve the Spanish-speaking community."

"I feel extremely fortunate to have someone so passionate about language interacting with my students. Debbie's support of my students results in greater student participation, boosts morale, and also sets a high standard for engaged learning."

- Emily Armstrong, Spanish Professor, MCC