2019 Recipient of the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

Ms. Lauren N. Hetrovicz

The College of Charleston’s Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award, established in 2014, honors those adjunct faculty members who are outstanding among the College’s many exceptional teachers. This year’s award recipient is Ms. Lauren Hetrovicz from the Department of Hispanic Studies.

Lauren is an innovative instructor who created and implemented a five-unit culture series for an introductory Spanish course using authentic materials (such as commercials, news segments, and infographics from different Spanish-speaking countries) to guide students through the analysis of cultural values. This novel pedagogical approach for the teaching of culture had an extraordinary effect, as shown in the following anonymous student response submitted through official Course-Instructor Evaluations: “I feel like Professor Hetrovicz not only taught us about language and culture but also used that to help open our minds to different issues that even apply in America.”

Lauren has incorporated technology into her classes through language-learning videos. Together with a Hispanic Studies faculty colleague, Lauren has co-created videos entitled Maestro de gramática which explain grammar concepts with an interactive approach and can be useful tools for nearly all Spanish courses, from the 100 through 300 course levels at the College. The video series is currently published with closed captioning on YouTube and has accumulated more than 4,000 total views.

Lauren has taken the initiative to use technology to help students develop skills outside the classroom and beyond the traditional face-to-face approach. In this spirit, she became certified for Distance Education in Fall 2017 and has since taught online courses and served as a member of the Hispanic Studies Distance Education Committee.

Lauren Hetrovicz has been noted as an extraordinary asset to the Department of Hispanic Studies and has made outstanding contributions in the areas of teaching, course and curriculum development, and innovation. We are pleased to recognize Ms. Lauren Hetrovicz with the 2019 Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award.