



2019 Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award

Ms. Devon W. Hanahan

The College of Charleston is home to many outstanding professionals who work diligently on behalf of our community. Established in 1983, our Distinguished Service Award annually recognizes the lengths to which one of our colleagues has gone to make the College a better place to live and work. This year, we recognize Ms. Devon Hanahan from the Department of Hispanic Studies.

Devon has a history of tremendous depth and breadth of service with the College and its students since she first started teaching as an adjunct lecturer back in 1995. For the past 24 years, Devon has demonstrated unshakeable optimism, where her answer to inquiries and service opportunities is always a resounding “YES.” Devon believes that service to her community is an inextricable element of a productive career and happy life. She truly enjoys helping others and interacting with as many groups on and off campus as possible, with her service record showing consistent and outstanding contributions. Her department chair calls her “extraordinary and (a) rare colleague.” Many have pointed not only to her energy and positive attitude but also to the fact that she most always takes the lead in many of her service initiatives. Her contributions include the following: being a member of an impressive 45+ committees to date; serving as Internship Director and member of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs’ Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Organizing Committee; member of the College of Charleston Alumni Association Board of Directors; Give to What You Love Fundraising Campaign Ambassador; Faculty Marshall; and Chair of the Carnegie Engaged Classification Committee. In addition to this, she has also found the time to advise and mentor many groups on campus, including the Spanish Club Tertulia and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Her desire to make the College welcoming to all is especially noted. She has taught First-Year Experience (FYE) courses and FYE Abroad courses for seven years, spent two years as a member of the President’s Campus Diversity Review Board, and supported the SPECTRA program by having a mentee for the past four years. Devon does not limit her service to on-campus activity. She has opened her home by inviting students to experience Spanish cuisine while building cultural bridges in our community by working with District Instructional Specialist for World Languages for Charleston County Schools to create an exchange program. She is an outstanding faculty colleague.

We are pleased to recognize Ms. Devon Hanahan’s service to the College of Charleston with the 2019 Distinguished Service Award.

