

Congrats to new Coordinators of EXCEL Center, Honors, and related programs

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To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Dear FLC community,

Please join us in congratulating our faculty colleagues who have been selected to play new service-leadership roles on campus--their work will create innovative new programming for our students and move our strategic plan forward. Becky Clausen and Deborah Powers have been selected as Co-Coordinators of our new EXCEL Center in the Academic Hub. Candace Nadon has been selected to serve as our new Coordinator of Academic and Creative Enrichment; she will lead our Honors Program in coordination with her work to lead our recent Teagle Grant and initiatives described below. Congratulations, Candace, Deb, and Becky!

Allow us to recognize these amazing colleagues:

- Since joining FLC's Sociology and Human Services Department in 2008, **Dr. Becky Clausen** has been committed to teaching through action. She has designed and facilitated numerous community-engaged and experiential learning opportunities such as the Sociology Block Program, Ecology and Society Field School, and La Escuelita, creating lasting partnerships across departments, communities, and institutions. These learning experiences are transformative for students because Becky designs them around her students' unique backgrounds and cultural knowledge.
- **Dr. Deborah Powers** has more than 30 years of professional experience with experiential education both as an educator and as a program manager, including co-directing the Chadwick School's Outdoor Education Program for 19 years. She has extensive expertise in curriculum development, operations, and logistics. In her own classroom, Deb creates community-engaged and experiential learning opportunities that give students direct experience to apply the knowledge and skills they are gaining through their academic studies, supporting their awareness of self and discovery of their passions.
- **Dr. Candace Nadon** is an Associate Professor of English and is the faculty advisor for *IMAGES*, *SkyWords* facilitator, and Liberal Arts Core Co-Chair, along with Dr. Sarah Roberts-Cady. With Caroline Kulesza, Candace serves as Principal Investigator (PI) of Fort Lewis' nationally competitive Teagle Foundation Grant. A writer of fiction and non-fiction, Candace earned her undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis and is honored to teach for the department that encouraged and supported her. She hopes to do the same for the students she works with. Candace is from Glenwood Springs, CO, and loves exploring with her Aussie, Rowan.

And, allow us to introduce the programs they will oversee:

- The **Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning (EXCEL) Center** is a new addition to the Academic Hub with offices for our new EXCEL Co-Coordinators, Undergraduate Research, and FLOW. The EXCEL Center delivers on our Strategic Plan's goal of creating a community engagement center and supports its Knowledge in Action pillar: "Continue to build on FLC's innovative academic offerings that feature hands-on learning. Connect students to a purpose-driven, place-based education celebrating the Four Corners' economic, cultural, and physical landscape." Our EXCEL Co-Coordinators will focus on innovative curriculum design and faculty support to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and meaningful learning experiences in a variety of contexts. Becky and Deb will be connecting with faculty soon to collaboratively set priorities for the EXCEL program and outline key partnerships and initiatives for this academic year. The EXCEL Center and positions are donor-funded.
- Candace's position will bring together several well-known programs and high-profile initiatives on campus, most notably her serving as our new coordinator of the [John F. Reed Honors Program](#) and her current creative writing work overseeing our [IMAGES magazine](#) and our [SkyWords Visiting Writers Series](#). These roles will connect to her work as co-PI of our [Teagle Foundation "Cornerstone: Living for Learning" Grant](#).

Candace's new position will focus on strengthening our Honors Program and our Liberal Arts Core (LAC) by creating an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum, including our new LAC Lens classes. These programs highlight student "mattering," emphasizing that students must feel that they and their education matter. Her work will be supported by student interns and faculty engaged in the Teagle Grant. Like the EXCEL Center, this work enacts our Strategic Plan's Knowledge in Action pillar: "Understand what students see as the meaning of their education and answer those desires in meaningful ways." Candace's position is funded by the Teagle grant.

Again, please join us in congratulating Candace, Deb, and Becky. Obviously, there will be many exciting developments coming from these program coordinators--we can't wait to hear more!

Best,
Michelle Bonanno, Director of the Academic Hub
Cheryl Nixon, Provost