March 30, 2021

Dear Academic Senate Council,

I would like to officially nominate **Jeffery Adkins** to represent LMC and CCCCD as Teacher of the Year. Professor Adkins has done an outstanding job teaching both Astronomy and Physics for LMC since 2005.

In addition to teaching “regular” LMC courses on the LMC campus, Professor Adkins has also been teaching Astronomy-010 and Astronomy-011 dual enrollment courses with Deer Valley High School in Antioch for the past three years bringing equitable opportunities for students to earn early college credit.

It’s not every day that college instructors are seeking ways to create bridges of opportunities by offering to teach college-level IGETC science classes on a high school campus exclusively for high school students. By doing so, however, Professor Adkins has directly impacted student’s positive connection with LMC, and themselves by achieving academic success in his classes.

Professor Adkins is a passionate science teacher who goes above and beyond what is required to bring his subjects to life. For example, he routinely offers astronomy viewing nights at Los Vaqueros Reservoir (pre-COVID) where he brings his own telescopes so students can experience the wonders of the universe. He was also able to secure grant funding for his high school classroom to purchase a large inflatable Elumenati planetarium and digital star projector where he hosts astronomy shows for both his students and the community-at-large at no cost and on his own time.

Here are just a few quotes from his students:

“Hands down the best science class I’ve ever taken.”

“Awesome teacher! He puts what you are learning to real life scenarios and has a blast showing and explaining to us”

“Great for physics, great for astronomy. Teaches at high school and college levels so he knows how to make tough subjects interesting/relatable. A total wealth of knowledge, you can tell he lives for this stuff. He might not hand out A’s but he certainly sets you up to succeed as long as you put in the effort.”

I have seen up close how Professor Adkins interacts with his students. He is kind, patient, and thoroughly knows his subject matter. He has quite literally written the books for teaching astronomy called, Conceptual Astronomy 1 and 2 (ISBN 978-1-59657-115-0, 978-1-59657-788-6).

He is fair, open-minded and truly cares about his student’s learning. He provides before and after class support. He also commits himself to helping students navigate LMC at large with understanding academic resources, counseling support, and other student services such as enrollment, tutoring, and financial aid giving them the tools they need to be successful now and in their academic future. He often says proudly that LMC stands for “Launch My Career!”

In addition to his outstanding teaching, Professor Adkins is a role model for all faculty representing LMC. It is for these reasons and more, that I whole-heartedly believe Professor Adkins would be an outstanding choice to represent LMC and CCCCD as Teacher of the Year. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Kelly Green

Senior Program Coordinator

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