Nomination for Janice Townsend Professor for Child Development.

It is with great honor that I Angela Fantuzzi Child Study Center Director, nominate Janice Townsend for teacher of the year. She began her journey as a child development educator at an early age, inspired by her mother that also was an educator. She has strived to learn the most up-to-date techniques in Early Childhood Education and inspired others to use them in the field. She has touched the lives of many. As soon as she started her work at LMC, she envisioned profound changes in the Child Development Department. She was instrumental in nearly tripling the capacity for the CSC from 30 to 80 children serviced each semester. She worked in unison with the director helping to improve the quality of care in the center as we achieved NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) accreditation with incredibly high scores. When I started working as a director, she was always there to support me in succeeding through my new journey.

As a visionary, she is always thinking ahead of the needs to develop practices that will better support students. She looks for creative ways to get the student to do a professional practicum with explicit examples of quality. Her job does not stop in the classroom; she would go into the child study center demonstrating the high-quality ECE practices. She has never hesitated to help others even when she has a full schedule. Somehow, she always manages to support anyone in need. When she noticed that the graduation rate in Child Development was increasing, she embarked on a new vision. She partnered with Bradman University to offer a BA in ECE for graduate students in an affordable way. This is a hybrid cohort model with instruction at LMC so the students could transfer and get the support they need.

She has supported students in many ways. Janice spends a lot of time guiding students to achieve their educational goals, by suggesting courses, explaining assignments in detail, partnering with other professors in giving the student the support their need. She will follow through with students and even when they have graduated, keep in contact with them to make sure they are in a stable situation. She inspired students into continuing their dream. I remember once a student could not enroll in classes because she had a school debt, Janice simply wrote a check so she could continue her journey.

In the Child Study Center, she initiated a class to helps Student Parents through their journey. This class has changed the lives of many. This is an email from a parent:

“ Taking child development 22 was a pivotal moment for how we parent. Because of that class we implemented a new style of parenting and looking back we can’t ever believe we parented any differently. Taking the class with Janice provided insight on how to become better parents with the reasoning that makes logical sense. I would also argue it helped us become better people too.”

There are innumerable parents that have been supported by Janice in improving their parenting and human skills.

How do I even begin to express the work she has done with children? With warmth and affection, she creates bonds with children. She will support teachers and student workers in ways that we can better support each child based on their personal needs. She has taught us all trauma-sensitive strategies to help each child succeed. Her motto in the Child Study Center is we can teach empathy to the children. Children will change the world by understanding other person's points of view and working with them to solve problems instead of fighting.

At Los Medanos College, Janice has been an active participant. Janice joined the fight for equity many years ago. She did flex workshops and worked along with the dean of equity in making policies to change inequities and to raise awareness. She has participated in college committees, including chairing the Curriculum Committee and as a senator at Academic Senate.

Janice is on her path to retirement; I feel this is the right time to nominate a woman that has impacted everyone that has been on her path. She deserves to be recognized for all the effort and work that she put into everything she believes in. With all her heart she has always given so much it is time for us to give back to her.