Central Virginia Community College Mission Statement

Central Virginia Community College is an accessible, comprehensive, public, two-year, higher education institution that is dedicated to:

- Providing open, flexible, affordable, quality learning opportunities for personal growth and the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for productive and meaningful life,
- Providing general education, transfer, applied science, certificate, and diploma programs,
- Determining and addressing the training needs of business, industry, and government to benefit the service area,
- Supporting workforce and economic development through participation in regional organizations and training for new and/or expanding businesses.
- Providing support services for education, training, technology infrastructure, and workforce development.
Summary of Accomplishments of Professor Cynthia R. Deutsch

Teaching

Cynthia Deutsch, professor of psychology, has established an outstanding record of teaching and service with a strong reputation for student connection. Having taught more than 6,000 students across her 18 years as an educator, Cynthia strives for excellence in her work with students from a variety of backgrounds. Her courses are both challenging and accessible, allowing students with varying backgrounds the opportunities to explore their strengths, grow as students and citizens, and ultimately achieve success. Her reputation for combining academic rigor with compassion and flexibility are known across campus, making her courses extremely popular. She is described as “a zealous educator with a gentle but enthusiastic desire to share her knowledge and love of psychology with her students”. Students know they will have a great academic and personal experience in her classes. Her teaching evaluations are always positive with an average score of 4.79 out of 5.00 on overall rating of instructor.

Cynthia was awarded the Chancellor’s Faculty Fellowship in 2010, an award that is designed to support faculty to prepare themselves for top-level management and instructional positions within the VCCS. She has been the recipient of the Learning Environment Award from students several times and was the recipient of the Faculty Leadership Award twice at Central Virginia Community College. In 2019, Cynthia had the tremendous honor of receiving the Susan S. Wood Professorship for Teaching Excellence Award from the Virginia Community College System. This is a significant achievement awarded annually to a faculty member whose career reflects a history of striving for excellence, commitment and dedication to students, creative and innovative approaches to teaching, active involvement in the discipline, who demonstrates leadership and collegiality among peers (at the college, state, and/or national levels), and who reflects continuous professional growth and development during his/her continuum of being a faculty member. In the words of Dr. Susan S. Wood, “I am impressed by your dedication to student success and your extensive professional activities, both at CVCC and beyond. You exemplify faculty excellence.”

Teaching

- At Central Virginia Community College, Cynthia teaches Principles of Psychology (PSY 200), Developmental Psychology (PSY 230), Abnormal Psychology (PSY 215), Psychology of Death and Dying (PSY 116) and occasionally Psychology of Criminal Behavior (PSY 255). She teaches in multiple formats, including traditional face to face, online, and hybrid. Students regularly comment about her passion and enthusiasm for teaching: “You can tell she is passionate about her job and she really cares about the students.”
- Cynthia was nominated by the CVCC president to attend the Virginia Master Teacher Seminar, a VCCS summer professional development seminar for college educators. She also supports the Great Teacher Seminars at Central Virginia Community College, which provide extraordinary professional development opportunities for all faculty at the college.
- To help ensure that all students are held to the same level of expectation across the Principles of Psychology course, Cynthia was actively involved in the creation of Articulated Learning Outcomes for PSY 200 within the VCCS Peer Group. As a result of this effort, all Principles of Psychology courses across the Virginia Community College System now follow the same Student Learning Outcomes in line with recommendations from the American
Psychological Association (APA), ensuring that all students in this high-enrollment course are working towards the same goals.

- Cynthia offers opportunities to students interested in pursuing psychology as a major that help them learn about and explore the field beyond the classroom experience. She encourages honors-level work allowing students to conduct original research and present their findings at the Virginia Psychological Association Annual Meeting and the Virginia Social Science Annual Meeting.

- Cynthia works regularly with students outside of the classroom looking for ways to provide additional support to those with increasing workloads and daily demands. Recognizing the demands of her students' stressful lives, Cynthia offers regular workshops on test anxiety and stress reduction. She also incorporates elements of these topics into all of her own courses as well as sharing strategies with students across campus by serving as a guest lecturer in other courses. These workshops are available to all students on campus or through a virtual webinar if their schedules do not allow them to attend. "Cynthia is very involved with her students, offering assistance where needed and showing her concern for them as both students and people. In the past, she has directed students to resources that have, quite literally, saved people's lives as well as directing them to resources that allowed them to finish the semester or their degree." (Dr. Tom Sparhawk, Professor of Sociology)

- Cynthia was a leader in bringing Open Educational Resources to Central Virginia Community College. Always cognizant of the increasing costs of higher education, she recognized the value of OER. As an early adopter of this format at CVCC, Cynthia helped lead the one-year, $200,000 Z-23 grant to support the VCCS's goal of scaling Z-Degrees to all 23 VCCS colleges. Cynthia was also instrumental in an Achieving the Dream Grant, serving as the co-leader on an OER initiative that resulted in the creation of more than 35 Lumen-certified OER courses and three distinct OER degrees at CVCC.

- Cynthia’s online courses have undergone extensive peer review, and she has participated in the peer review process for other online courses at CVCC. She teaches sections of Developmental Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Psychology of Death and Dying and Social Psychology entirely online. These are popular, high-demand sections with double-digit enrollments each semester. “Professor Deutsch is easy to reach, friendly, and structures the course in such a way that it is feasible to grasp the material. We had many class discussions that help me understand the material better” – (former student)

- Many of Cynthia’s students transfer to the University of Lynchburg, where she also teaches a graduate section of Human Development in the department of education, helping to prepare future teachers for the K-12 system. This course is also popular with the students, providing them opportunities to engage and prepare for the challenges they will face as educators in a complex system.

- Furthering her connections between the K-12 and the community college system, Cynthia participates annually in the AP Psychology Read, an intensive seven-day grading program where psychology educators from both the K-12 and higher education meet and score high school AP exams based on an agreed-upon rubric. The experience has led to improvements in rubric creation in her own teaching, a stronger connection with local schools that are teaching AP psychology, and the creation of strong bonds with psychology instructors across the country. This work also allows Cynthia to have a better understanding of the work that is being done at the K-12 level and meet her students where they are when they enter her class.
Due to her abilities to connect with students, Cynthia’s classes are specially chosen for the Early College programs and for other dual-enrollment programs on campus.

Cynthia also has a way of connecting with the CVCC veteran student population. The veteran’s coordinator intentionally places students in Cynthia’s classes because she knows students will get the support they need for a successful transition from the military to the academic environment. Cynthia maintains connections with many of these students, helping them in multiple ways as they continue to transition from school into work settings.

Cynthia engages in extensive advising of students outside of the classroom, meeting with students on a regular basis to provide support and guidance to help them progress through their academic programs. She regularly writes recommendations for students to assist them with transfer to 4-year academic programs, graduate programs, careers, and applications for supporting scholarships. Many of her students have gone on to master’s and Doctoral programs with her recommendations. “I appreciate you very much Professor Deutsch! Thank you so much for teaching me over my 2 years here, and I will certainly miss you next year (as I transfer).” (former student)

Discovery

Cynthia came to teaching with a strong background in research, having spent several years supervising drug-treatment research protocols in the Los Angeles area and working in educational and institutional research settings in Southern California and Arizona. Her background and passion for research have served as a foundation in her teaching as she integrates real world research applications into her courses. Cynthia has authored a well-cited publication that evolved from her dissertation work on self-perceived burden in cancer patients and has presented at numerous conferences across the country. She also serves as an editorial board member and reviewer for several academic journals in her discipline.

Cynthia published her dissertation research in the academic journal *Current Psychology*. The article “Individual Characteristics and Self-Perceived Burden” was published in 2014 and has since been cited numerous times in articles published in academic journals such as *European Journal of Cancer Care*, *Psycho-Oncology*, *Supportive Care in Cancer* and *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*.

Prior to the publication, Cynthia presented her dissertation research “Cognitive Characteristics and Self-Perceived Burden” at the American Psychological Science Annual Meeting in 2013.

While leading the topic selection committee for CVCC’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Cynthia conducted extensive research with the college constituency which led to the successful identification of the QEP topic, “Building Better Writers”.

After identifying the QEP topic, Cynthia co-chaired the QEP for five years conducting extensive research on effective peer tutoring practices and established a successful writing center. The results of these investigations and efforts led to the creation of a new Writing Center on the CVCC campus, a student support service dedicated to the support of student writing across all disciplines, and a brand new peer-tutoring program to support the Writing Center, as well as successful reaccreditation for Central Virginia Community College.

Cynthia presented the creation of the peer-tutoring program and writing center at the VCCS New Horizon’s Conference as part of the 2017 Excellence in Education Awards program.
• With her extensive involvement in the development and adoption of Open Educational Resources, Cynthia has presented at numerous conferences on OER, including the OpenEd conference, the VCCS New Horizons Conference and a VCCS Educational Technology Conference in Roanoke Virginia. She is certified to teach OER courses through the successful completion of the VCCS Pathways Course on OER. She has also been active in training efforts to support colleagues who also wish to use OER for their courses.

• Due to her focus on bringing useful technologies into the classroom, Cynthia was an early adopter of Canvas, the new VCCS learning management system. Using her knowledge of the system, Cynthia provides training sessions to her colleagues, helping the college move through a complicated technology change from Blackboard to Canvas in 2019.

• Recognizing the powerful potential for student support, Cynthia was also an early and enthusiastic user of the new Navigate technology, again serving in a training capacity to support her colleagues during significant changes on campus. She has since become a “super-user” of the Navigate system, allowing her to lead trainings on campus and assist her colleagues with the new technologies.

• Cynthia has conducted research on and presented on the effectiveness of the hybrid classroom design. In 2013, she presented results from a study on the Development and Teaching of the Hybrid Design at the Eastern Teaching of Psychology Annual Meeting.

• To better support her work in the classroom, Cynthia earned a graduate certificate in Higher Education from the University of New Hampshire, a 12-credit certificate program that is designed to prepare and enhance the effectiveness of college teaching.

• Cynthia is an active member of the psychology peer group in the VCCS and has presented at numerous peer group meetings on topics such as OER and active learning in the classroom.

• Cynthia represented CVCC on a panel with the former Secretary of Education, Ann Holton, at the request of the college President. The state listening tour, addressing disparities in higher education focused on highlighting problems and brainstorming solutions for community college students.

Knowledge Integration

Cynthia’s success in higher education is a direct result of her ability to integrate her passion for teaching and research as well as her dedication to student success.

• Cynthia’s leadership of CVCC’s Quality Enhancement Plan was instrumental in the successful reaccreditation of Central Virginia Community College in 2014. The result of the successful QEP was the creation of a new Writing Center on campus along with a new peer-tutoring program to support the center. Since its opening in 2014, the Writing Center has provided academic support for more than 3500 students enrolled in developmental English classes or other writing intensive courses. The Writing Center is now in its 6th year of operation, is CRLA certified, and successfully employs two professional writing coaches along with eight to ten peer-writing coaches annually.

• As part of the Quality Enhancement Plan, Cynthia was instrumental in bringing Dr. Hunter Boylan, a national expert in developmental education, to CVCC for an inclusive professional development opportunity for faculty and staff. The event, which was attended by more than 40 CVCC employees, addressed changes in developmental education and provided knowledge of the unique hardships that poverty presents to struggling students, especially those who do not have a family history of college attendance.
Due to the success of the CVCC QEP, Cynthia was asked by SACSCOC in 2018 to serve as the QEP Lead Evaluator for an onsite accreditation visit at Kilgore College. Cynthia reviewed the Kilgore College QEP and met with constituents across the campus, offering guidance for improvement on their plan. Dr. Denise Young, the Vice-President for SACSCOC was particularly impressed by the work that Cynthia did with this team, calling it a “superb job as the QEP Lead Evaluator.”

At CVCC, Cynthia is involved with other college programs. She serves annually on an evaluation panel for a capstone course for the Electronics and Computer Technology AAS degree. In this course, students spend a semester researching and writing a significant research paper on a cutting-edge technology. Cynthia “comes to class and aids the students in considering the potential impacts to society of the technology. Most of the students are much more comfortable with the technical side of their topic and convincing them to participate in open discussion on difficult topics is challenging. Cynthia manages this task with ease and fruitful results. Although the topics are outside of her academic area of expertise, she enthusiastically participates, pushing the presenters with thoughtful questions at the end, and leaves encouraging yet constructively critical feedback and suggestions. All of this input is outside of her extensive institutional responsibilities. “I appreciate her help, perspective, and contribution to my students’ future successes.” (Marcella Gale Associate Professor Central Virginia Community College)

Service

Service underlies all that is central to the mission of the community college, and Cynthia is no stranger to this critical aspect of education. Beyond her dedicated service to the college and the VCCS, Cynthia’s community involvements are also extensive. She has spent years with several organizations providing support to families and individuals dealing with cancer. Additionally, she is actively involved in academic service that provides support to students, academic organizations, and publications.

Service to College and VCCS

Cynthia has served on the CVCC Faculty Association for more than seven years. She began by serving as the division representative, continuing on to be the Faculty Association Treasurer for one year, followed by a year as the Vice-President. She currently serves as the President of the Faculty Association and sits on the President’s Cabinet.

Cynthia also serves as the CVCC representative for the Chancellors’ Faculty Advisory Committee, which consists of elected representatives from each of the twenty-three community colleges. Twice during the academic year, they meet in Richmond with the Chancellor and his administrative staff for a collegial and free-flowing discussion that addresses faculty concerns and issues related to student success.

Cynthia currently serves on numerous committees at Central Virginia Community College, including the Faculty Association, the Professional Development Committee, Evaluation and Assessment, President’s Council, Student Success, and the Title III Grant Steering Committee. Cynthia also serves on the college’s CARE Team, working with colleagues to address the multitude of student needs outside of the classroom.

For more than 10 years, Cynthia has served on the New Horizon’s Program Review Committee, which reviews proposals for the annual teaching and learning conference for the Virginia Community College System.
Cynthia served as the advisor to Phi Theta Kappa at CVCC from 2008 to 2015, which doubled in size during her tenure to more than 90 students. Under Cynthia’s leadership, two students were nominated each year for the All-Virginia Academic Team, and one of her students was nominated to the Top Ten All Virginia Team and was awarded a Bronze Scholarship.

Service to Community

Cynthia volunteered from 2009 to 2015 at Camp Kesem, a weeklong summer camp offered to children whose parents have or had cancer. She served as the grief counselor, providing guidance to camp counselors as well as direct support to children and family members. Throughout her time at Camp Kesem, attendance doubled to more than 80 children between the ages of 6 and 16. During this time, Cynthia also assisted Mark and Maya Silver in the creation of their publication “I’m a Teen, My Parent has Cancer and it Really Sucks!”, providing support for camper interviews and also serving as a resource for camp information.

In 2010, Cynthia was asked to serve on the advisory board for Camp Kesem, helping steer the growth of the camp. She continues to work with Camp Kesem on the advisory board as the camp continues to grow and provide support to families across Central Virginia.

In Lynchburg, Cynthia provides direct support to cancer patients leading gentle yoga workshops at the Pearson Cancer Center. The class is free to all patients and is typically attended by at least 20 former or current patients.

Cynthia served as a member of the Cancer Action Coalition Virginia (CACV) for eight years, a group that facilitates statewide collaborations of organizations and individuals on activities related to objectives contained in the state cancer plan.

Because of her extensive cancer advocacy work and personal battle with cancer, Cynthia was interviewed by Sarah McConnell for the Virginia Radio Show “With Good Reason.” The show, which aired in April 2006, featured Cynthia’s advocacy work at the time with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC).

Academic Service

Cynthia serves as the treasurer and a board member of the Virginia Social Science Association, a nonprofit membership organization that brings together academics in the fields of anthropology, business, criminal justice, economics, education, geography, history, international relations, political science, psychology, and sociology. “The VSSA owes Cynthia a vote of thanks that cannot fully be appreciated or convey the fulness of our gratitude.” (Christopher Saladino President, Virginia Social Science Association)

She serves as an editorial board member and peer reviewer for the academic journal Current Psychology since 2015, reviewing an average of 10 academic articles related to topics in psychology for potential publication annually.

Cynthia has also served as a peer reviewer for the academic journal Psycho-Oncology, a journal that is concerned with the psychological, social, behavioral, and ethical aspects of cancer.

Cynthia also serves as a moderator for the Society of Teaching Psychology (STP) Facebook Group, an online group of psychology educators with a membership of more than 10,000.

She has also served as a mentor for STP, providing guidance to new faculty at colleges across the nation.
Personal Statement of Professor Cynthia R. Deutsch

An introvert by nature, if anyone had told me I would spend my days standing in front of and working with large groups of students, I would have shaken my head with disbelief. Sometimes I still shake my head in disbelief at my tremendous fortune to work in a setting that brings me such joy.

Teaching I struggled as an undergraduate. My family was in turmoil, and my focus was often not where it should have been as a student. What made the difference during those difficult years were the professors. I remember the handful who made the difference in my ability to eventually overcome these personal circumstances, those who took the time to recognize my potential, were approachable, and managed to present challenging material in a way that was interesting and relevant. The efforts of these educators and the support they gave me in developing my academic abilities enabled me to eventually go on to be highly successful in my graduate programs and in my career as an educator. It is these relationships that I refer to and emulate in my own commitment and dedication to student success. In working with a diverse college population, I understand the multitude of challenges our students face as they strive to improve their lives through education and training. Most are working, many have young children, and too many are facing daily hardships such as lack of stable housing and access to food. Although I cannot fix all these problems, I can at least recognize them and be willing to work with students where they are and to recognize their academic potential just as those few professors did for me. Thus, my commitment and dedication to student success translate into flexibility and compassion in working with students. It does not mean taking the rigor out of the coursework, but it does mean that I recognize when flexibility is necessary, and when students need help. Because I get to know my students as people, they also learn that I am approachable and genuinely invested in their academic and personal success. I strive to be student-focused, flexible, and aware of uniqueness amongst my students. As one student stated, “Last semester was the first time I stepped into a classroom in over 20 years. Dr. Deutsch made the transition so very easy. She made sure each one of her students understood the material, was always willing to stay late to help, and would take the time to get to know her students. What a blessing she was to me as a student.”

My experiences in the classroom have also shown me that student success is achieved when the relationship between the teacher and student is one of collaboration. For this to happen, it is important to establish a community based on mutual respect. The connection and energy established with students is a powerful teaching technique that I utilize in creating an optimal learning environment. My role is not to be the “sage on the stage” but rather to work to engage students in learning and applying difficult topics far beyond textbook explanations. I see my role as a facilitator, encouraging a shift in thinking and reasoning, from a common-sense personal bias to one that challenges students to apply critical thinking skills.

My philosophy is to teach through passion and personal connection. I love what I teach, and it comes through to my students. I try to keep them laughing and learning, using a great deal of humor and storytelling in my courses, a purposeful approach that I have spent many years refining to create a positive rapport and learning environment with my students. I want my students to look forward to coming to class, to think about it when they aren't there. This connection-based strategy seems to work well. I'm often told by students that my class is their favorite, even from our dual-enrolled students with severe cases of senioritis. From the words of a former student, “Professor Deutsch clearly knows her stuff. She is well-educated and is the only teacher that I actually enjoy hearing lecture. She is filled with interesting facts, statistics and knowledge about life and people.”
Understanding the importance of active engagement, I also integrate a variety of techniques into my classes, incorporating hands-on active learning exercises such as examining research methods through an old-wives tale, or having students take and examine a modern personality test to make these topics come alive for students. Classes include the use of active demonstrations, short video clips demonstrating psychological behaviors, and small group discussions. I also use technology earnestly and was an early adopter of Canvas for the VCCS recognizing the tremendous potential of this new platform for students and faculty.

Service  Community service is central to my commitment to faculty excellence. Since coming to CVCC, I have been involved in numerous service projects ranging from working with children whose parents are dealing with a cancer diagnosis to assisting local community members dealing with cancer. Once again, personal circumstances translated into a passion allowing me extraordinary opportunities to give back to the cancer community. I began by founding the Central Virginia Chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, promoting education and support services for women and families dealing with this difficult diagnosis. In 2009 I was given the opportunity to begin a seven-year volunteer position with Camp Kesem UVA, part of a national organization that provides free summer camp to children whose parents have or have had cancer. My role was to provide grief support for the children who attended camp. I have continued to remain involved in the UVA camp, serving on the advisory board since 2010. I have also found other ways to continue to provide support to the cancer community, leading yoga workshops for cancer patients at the Pearson Cancer Center in Lynchburg Virginia.

Student success is personal to me, and thus I work throughout the college to find ways to address student needs that go well beyond the classroom. At the college, I am intricately involved in service to students through mentoring and working with the college to address specific needs outside of academics such as college affordability, mental health concerns and other life issues that can often derail an education. I encompass a team approach, reaching out to other members of the college community to try to ensure that we can find the resources to support our students in need. That is the key to helping so many to stay in school and succeed.

Discovery  Although not the mission of the community college, research is also central to my academic career. I was successful in transitioning my dissertation work on self-perceived burden of cancer patients to a published journal article in the peer-reviewed journal Current Psychology. Since publication, the article has been cited numerous times, cementing its role in furthering the investigations on this important topic. As a result of that publication, I began to serve as an ad-hoc reviewer for the journal and was later asked to join their editorial board, where I continue to review manuscripts. I have also presented regularly at VCCS Peer Conferences and at New Horizons on topics related to teaching in psychology, OER, and our last QEP initiative, which I co-chaired.

Integration of Knowledge  Extensive work with SACSCOC beginning with our own QEP and the creation of a Writing Center and Peer Tutoring program was a transformative experience integrating my teaching, research abilities, and service focus towards students. This project, of which I was the co-director, allowed me to work with my colleagues to create a student-centered learning environment that supports students in their writing. The project, called “Building Better Writers” has just started its sixth year, and business is booming. What began as a Writing Center has now turned into a thriving Learning Commons, providing student support across all academic areas. As a result of our QEP success, I had the exciting opportunity to serve as the Lead Evaluator on a SACSCOC reaffirmation visit for Kilgore College; this experience informs my continued involvement in CVCC’s reaffirmation process.
Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae for Professor Cynthia R. Deutsch

Professional Employment

January 2002 to present  Professor – Central Virginia Community College
August 2016 to present  Professor (adjunct) – University of Lynchburg
April 1999 to June 2001  Director Research and Assessment – Cochise College
October 1998 to April 1999  Institutional Research Specialist - Citrus College

Education

2011  Ph.D. Health Psychology/Behavioral Medicine Northcentral University
1996  M.A. Psychology California State University Los Angeles (honors)
2007  Graduate Certificate in College Teaching 2007 University of New Hampshire
1989  B.A. Psychology University of California, Santa Barbara

Academic Appointments

2019  President – Faculty Association, Central Virginia Community College
2018 to present  Chancellor’s Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC) representative for CVCC
2018  Vice President – Faculty Association, Central Virginia Community College
2018  QEP Lead Evaluator for SACSCOC
2018 - present  College Board AP Reader
2017 – 2018  Treasurer – Faculty Association, Central Virginia Community College
2018 to present  Moderator for Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP) Facebook Group
2016 to 2019  Achieving the Dream (ATD) Grant co-leader
2016 to present  Mentor for the STP Professional Development Mentoring Program
2013 to present  Editorial Review Board Member and reviewer for Journal Current Psychology
2017 to present  Reviewer for Journal Psycho-oncology
2013 to present  Treasurer and Board Member - Virginia Social Science Association
2011 to present  Planning committee or proposal committee for Virginia Community College annual New Horizon’s Conference
2013 to 2019  Co-Chair for Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACSCOC reaccreditation visit
2008 – 2015  Academic Advisor – Phi Theta Kappa, Central Virginia Community College

Professional Affiliations

Member of American Psychological Association (APA) since 1993
Member of Society for Teaching Psychology (STP) since 2013

Community Service

2017 – present  Poverty to Progress/Bridges to Progress
2010 – present  Advisory Board Member – Camp Kesem, University of Virginia
2018 to present  Yoga instructor Pearson Cancer Center
2009 - 2015  Camp Therapist – Camp Kesem, University of Virginia
2008 to 2015  Cancer Action Coalition Virginia (CACV) member

Awards and Scholarships

2019  Recipient of the Susan S. Wood Professorship for Teaching Excellence Award, Virginia Community College System
2015, 2018  Faculty Leadership Award – Central Virginia Community College
2017, 2018, 2019  Learning Environment Award (LEA) – Central Virginia Community College
2010  Chancellor’s Fellowship, Virginia Community College System
2006  Lance Armstrong Foundation Summit Scholarship

Selected Professional Workshops, Presentations and Publications

2017  Lofaso, C.R. – “Faculty Driven OER” – Presentation at VCCS Ed Tech conference
2016  Lofaso C.R., Dario-Becker, J – “Faculty Driven OER” – Presentation at OpenEd Conference Anaheim CA.
2013  Lofaso, C.R. “Development and Teaching of a Hybrid Course in General Psychology” presented at ETOP conference Staunton Virginia
2011  Lofaso C.R. “Lectures and Active Learning, Where is the Balance?” Presentation at VCCS Psychology Peer Conference Richmond VA
2007  Lofaso, C.R., Beasley, S., Velez, L. “Meeting the Challenges in the Interactive Classroom” – Presentation at Sloan C Conference Orlando FLA
2005  Lofaso, C.R., Piercy, J. “Active Learning in Class and Online” Presented at VCCS Social Science Peer Conference
Excerpted letters of support for Professor Cynthia R. Deutsch

Dr. John Capps President Central Virginia Community College

“Throughout her tenure at CVCC, Dr. Deutsch has consistently distinguished herself through her unsurpassed professionalism, extraordinary teaching skills, and exceptional leadership ability. Indeed, Dr. Deutsch is one of those rare individuals who excel at whatever they do, for she has the capacity to inspire students and to work productively and effectively with faculty and staff. Her students adore her, not because she is a lenient grader, but because she has a rare talent for making learning personally meaningful. One student in a Developmental Psychology course, for instance, wrote in an evaluation, “She made all the material very interesting. She was always helpful, understanding, and willing to work with you.” Another commented, “Dr. Deutsch is a great instructor, and I have recommended her numerous times. Her teaching style goes along perfectly with how I ideally would like all classes to be.” As these testimonials suggest, Dr. Deutsch’s students invariably come to see her as a knowledgeable professor and an inspirational advocate who is vitally concerned with their growth as learners and as people. For both her personal and professional accomplishments, I recommend Dr. Cynthia Deutsch without reservation and with the highest regard. Her abilities have won her the respect of student and colleagues alike; her dedication and service, the esteem of all who have worked with her. Those qualities, couples with her impeccable record of academic and professional achievement, make her an outstanding candidate for the Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award.”

Dr. Muriel Mickles Vice-President Academic and Student Services

“During her tenure at Central Virginia Community College, Cynthia has distinguished herself as an outstanding educator. I found her to be a very student-centered individual who is flexible, cooperative and willing to accommodate the needs of the students. She is a gifted instructor and demonstrates the ability to work effectively with culturally and educational diverse students. With her student in mind (an in alignment with the College’s mission of affordability and accessibility), she embraced the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) for her classes. She is extremely dedicated and committed to student success and is a model of excellence in education. Cynthia is a natural leader and a dynamic communicator! Elected by her peers, she currently serves as the Faculty Association President and is considered the ultimate faculty champion. Her leadership efforts with the faculty, staff and the administration have been instrumental in strengthening the communication and collaborative efforts in the college community as a whole. Cynthia possesses a genuine concern for people and is well-liked, admired and respected by those who have been fortunate enough to know her. Her warm, approachable personality enables her to easily establish strong rapport with her students and colleagues, creating a comfortable environment that is very conducive to open dialog and learning. Cynthia consistently goes beyond the expected by using initiative and imagination to make the college a better place for our students, faculty, staff and administrators. An outstanding educator and leader in all respects, I am proud to say that Cynthia is definitely an ambassador who epitomizes excellence in education as well as promotes and enhances the College mission for the ultimate beneficiaries…our students! Cynthia is indeed an outstanding faculty whose commitment to education and students make her well deserving of the 2020 Outstanding Faculty Award.”

Dr. Cynthia M. Wallin Associate Vice President Arts and Sciences

“First and foremost, Dr. Cynthia Deutsch is a zealous educator with a gentle but enthusiastic desire to share her knowledge and love of psychology with her students. She is passionate about student success and desires that every student reach their potential. Her classes are frequently at capacity, but she always makes room for one more student. According to students,
her class enable them ‘to make better decision in life’ and ‘better relate to everyday life experiences.’” Although a seemingly meek and mild professor upon first introduction, Cynthia is dynamic both in the classroom and across the college campus. Beyond her ever-present role in the classroom, she serves as Faculty Association President and represents the faculty at the President’s Cabinet and numerous other college committees and functions. Serving on the Chancellor’s Faculty Advisory Committee, Cynthia is a strong advocate for faculty rights and privileges, as well as the overall promotion of the community college as a viable educational pathway. Her involvement regionally and nationally as Treasurer for the Virginia Social Sciences Association and as an editorial board member and peer reviewer for Current Psychology are indicative of her commitment to her discipline and education in general. Without reservation, Cynthia is well deserving of the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award”.

Audrey Mullins High School Science Teacher Alta Vista Combined School

“While attending the University of Lynchburg for my Masters of Education in Science Education. I had the opportunity to take Human Development with Dr. Cynthia Deutsch. The class was required by the University and by the state of Virginia to be a licensed K-12 teacher. To be honest, I had no real interest in taking Human Development, I was just taking the class because it was required to graduate. Oddly enough, Dr. Deutsch’s class became one of my favorite classes at the University of Lynchburg. Dr. Deutsch has a passion for teaching, making rigorous lessons, and building positive relationships with each of her students. Dr. Deutsch instills a passion for learning in each of her students; it’s my hope as a new educator, I can instill a passion for learning in each of my students as gracefully and pragmatic as Dr. Deutsch.”

Alicia McCarthy MSN, CPNP-AC Department of Orthopedics Nemours/A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children

“I am writing in enthusiastic support of Dr. Cynthia for the Virginia State Board of Higher Education 2020 Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Deutsch and I volunteered together from 2009 through 2013 with Camp Kesem at the University of Virginia. Camp Kesem is a nonprofit organization that runs free weeklong sleepaway camps for children whose parents have or have had cancer. This camp is primarily run by college students but requires the support of a camp therapist for the week, as well as the support of an advisory board throughout the year. Dr. Deutsch volunteered as both the camp therapist and an advisory board member for many years. In her role as camp therapist, Dr. Deutsch was present for the entire week of sleepaway camps, as well as pre-camp planning. In the middle of a Virginia summer, this is no easy feat! Her duties involved guiding counselors in their interactions with campers, educating counselors about therapeutic communication and other interventions they could take with campers, as well as directly intervening when a camper had significant emotional or mental health issues while at camp. Dr. Deutsch always went above and beyond participating in many camp activities (including dance parties and fireside chats) and her face was well known to both campers and counselors. She read all camper files thoroughly and spoke with parents at length about their children and their home situation. This allowed her significant insight into each camper’s (and counselor’s) well-being and gave campers and counselors a high level of comfort in seeking her out. Her insight, empathy and professional skills allowed Camp Kesem to successfully support multiple campers with significant emotional, behavioral and mental health issues that we otherwise would have needed to turn away or send home early. I always found her willing to help wherever it was needed, and her calm and friendly demeanor were a welcome touchstone in the middle of a crazy camp week!”
Christopher J. Saladino Assistant Professor Political Science, President VSSA

For the last three years, Cynthia has been elected treasurer of the VSSA and as another elected officer in the organization, I can honestly say that this was one of the smartest elections in our recent history. The VSSA sits on a substantial set of monies, including a current checking account and a long-term investment account. Beyond managing those funds, the treasurer has a central role in how VSSA spends money, collecting and distributing debits and credits to the accounts, and essentially managing every monetary and financial transaction. The condition that the VSSA Treasurer leaves the finances of the organization goes a long way to how the incoming treasurer will find their way in this position. Bluntly, Cynthia inherited a supreme mess that was unexpected and potentially untenable. What Cynthia has done with that position and with putting the VSSA on a stable, transparent, and transferable financial footing is nothing short of remarkable. AND, this has all been done as a volunteer service commitment that many other faculty would have avoided or walk away from. She’s a great colleague, willing to listen, to advise, to be concerned when appropriate and to laugh when it’s necessary. In short, she’s a tremendous asset to this organization and to her own school and students.”

Dr. Thomas Sparhawk Professor of Sociology Central Virginia Community College

“I have known Cynthia as a colleague and a friend for almost 20 years. In that time, she has been an active and engaged faculty member, being involved in too many committees to mention – including both college/system wide committees, such as the re-accreditation of the college through SACSCOC and local committees such as the faculty association. Cynthia has been and continues to be involved at multiple levels in the community, from her early work with the Ovarian Cancer Association and membership on the board of her son’s Montessori school to her work with Camp Kesem she has been a productive, engaged, and concerned community member. Her involvement is not only academic and service related. She also has taken courses in and shared her knowledge of Yoga and pottery, to the benefit of many of her friends and colleagues. Cynthia is also actively engaged in the newest forms of teaching technology. From being an innovator and informal teacher with the Blackboard learning system to being an early adopter and instructor in the use of the new Canvas learning system, she has always been a leading force in teaching technology. She is also very involved with her students, offering assistance where needed and showing her concern for them as both students and people. In the past, she has directed students to resources that have, quite literally, saved people’s lives as well as directing them to resources that allowed them to finish the semester or their degree. Cynthia has been a consistent support of the faculty at CVCC. Her involvement with committees and college governance has been steady and very useful the whole time she has been at the college. She is currently serving at the president of the Faculty association and as our representative to the Chancellor’s Faculty Advisory Committee.”

Marcella Gale Assistant Professor Science Math and Engineering

“You are so incredibly good at your job; achieve most every goal you set out for yourself with high efficiency & effectiveness, and the students & institution are all bettered because of your efforts. You are well worthy of this award, but no one will know unless you tell them. These awards are not self-aggrandizement; they are incentive for everyone to raise their game, which benefits us all.”
Additional Documentation for Cynthia R. Deutsch Ph.D.

Student evaluations are consistently high with an average of 4.79 out of 5.0.

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SELECTED ANONYMOUS COMMENTS AND UNSOLICITED LETTERS:

Former Student Feedback

“I know you will not remember me, but I was a student of yours many years ago. I took Principles of Psychology from you back in 2011 and Developmental Psychology in 2012. I also took the Psychology of Death and Dying as an online course. I am reaching out because I am currently finishing up my application to the Developmental Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Tennessee. I will be finishing up my undergraduate degree in the next few weeks and will hopefully have the chance of continuing my education. As I was writing my admission essays, I thought back to the very first moments I became interested in Psychology while I was in your classes. I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to take these courses from you, without your influence I do not know where I would be today. When I began at CVCC I was dealing with some medical issues that I believed would make it impossible to complete any sort of degree. Your courses made me excited about the possibility of a future in this field. Each step has been a challenge and I cannot believe that I am now at this point. I wanted to thank you for the influence you have had on my path, without those first Psychology classes I do not know where I would be. I also know that taking them from just anyone would not have had the same effect, you, in particular, made the material accessible and exciting. I distinctly remember the day one of your colleagues came into the classroom to inform us that you had finished your Ph.D. and you were now Dr. Deutsch. This moment has stuck with me. Knowing that you were able to complete your degree while having a family and teaching at CVCC gave me hope that there was a way that I could figure out how to achieve the same goal with my challenges. Please know that it is my goal through graduate school and my career to pay this forward through mentorship and teaching. I hope that maybe I can influence someone’s life the way you influenced mine.” Samantha Path former student (who I do remember) email

“This was my first time in a classroom in over 25 years. I found it to be a very rewarding experience. I felt challenged but in a very creative and academic way. The class was asked to
leave our opinions and preconceived notions outside the classroom, and to be open to all of the information being presented. I will always remember this class and this professor as my gateway back in the collegiate world. I am so thankful for Professor Deutsch. I am so impressed with her that I have already signed up for a class with her next semester. I enjoyed how she could cajole the class into a good spirited discussion. I first-hand saw minds being challenged to think outside of their comfort zone to a deeper level."

“Very Knowledgeable/Took time to answer question/taught in a manner that made the material much easier to understand. Involved the entire class in discussion and made psychology exciting. By far the best professor :)”

“Dr. Deutsch is an amazing instructor. She connects with the information given and genuinely enjoys interacting with her students. More importantly, it is refreshing and incredibly appreciated to know that she cares for her students and wants success from them. She understands and encourages us to do the best we can and to step outside of our comfort zones to understand the coursework on a deeper level than just listening to lectures.”

“From the information being given itself, to how it is being taught. I really enjoyed the documentary we watched, and I felt like that alone opened the class up to one another. There was more that we could learn from each other because of the flexibility of the lesson plans being taught. This is probably my most favorite course in 3 semesters at CVCC.”

“This course makes me excited about my ventures in pursuing a Bachelors. Dr. Deutsch and her class made me hungry for more knowledge; I want more information and I want others to know more about what I can learn her class and classes like hers.”

“It would take me a little while to think of something I disliked. All I can think of right now is good things. If she didn’t think you were doing the best that you could be doing, she would really let you know, but it was for your own benefit.”

“I would recommend her to other students. She was very caring towards you. She made me want to do well in the class.”

“It makes me almost too aware of the people around (me). I feel like I treat people differently and have a totally different outlook on them now.”

“She was very helpful and encouraged all the students to reach out with any questions or concerns. She was always encouraging and would write comments on assignments to congratulate you on a job well done or give you constructive criticism when it was needed. Overall a very well-rounded professor and I greatly appreciate all the time and effort that went into teaching this course.”

“She teaches the material in an understandable way and loves teaching! I really appreciated the effort she put into this class!”

“She’s a great teacher I’ll miss her next semester”

“She presented material in an easy to understand way. Classes were enjoyable and interesting. She strived for class participation without putting more shy students, such as myself, on the spot.”

I have really enjoyed our in-class discussions and learned so much. This class has been amazing and made me love psychology even more!
“You can tell she is passionate about her job and she really cares about the students” former student

“She did an excellent job encouraging students to engage in discussion about all of the various topics covered and gave information that is practical and realistic in terms of applying it to everyday life.”

“I loved her knowledge of the material and the way the class incorporated both lecture material and times for discussion; being able to apply the information instead of just memorizing it made it a better learning experience.”

“I also loved Mrs. Deutsch’s style of teaching; she always kept my attention, explained things very clearly, and had great video clips that helped explain certain material. She was also great about answering questions & returning emails. I would recommend Mrs. Deutsch to anyone and can only hope she has classes available when I have to take other classes that she teaches…”

“She fostered class discussions on many of the topics presented. I also liked her use of video clips to help present a theory. Our class was a great class because of our instructor’s ability to get us to think, discuss and reflect!”

“I liked that she knew a lot of information on everything she taught. She taught everything in a very understandable way. I also enjoyed hearing her personal stories; it made the class even more interesting. I liked how she incorporated videos into the class as well. Her power point and notes were very helpful”

“She showed a genuine interest for her subject and a vast knowledge of it as well. Very informative, helpful, and kind.”

“Professor Deutsch clearly knows her stuff. She is well educated and is the only teacher that I actually enjoy hearing lecture. She is filled with interesting facts, statistics and knowledge about life and people.”

“Each topic was presented in a way that made it more interesting than the last. I enjoyed coming to class and learning about the different fields of psychology.”

“She is such an amazing woman and she should keep teaching just as she is! She’s great!”

“Dr. Deutsch has a real passion for this subject! Her sheer investment into what she teaches kept things fresh.”

“She is funny, chill and has some cool stories to tell. She always gave us time to ask questions and participate in class. She always made sure everything was understandable”.

“She was extremely interactive and very involved. Her love of the course and subject matter couldn’t help but get me excited as well. She is very caring and wants to help out in any way she can. Best professor.”

“The course is life altering if you pay attention and are willing to use the information to make better decision in life. I enjoyed the class even though some of the topics pull at your emotions.”

“I appreciate all you’ve done as you’ve worked with me and encouraged me along the way. The day I stayed behind to talk, as you listened and offered encouragement made you so much more than just a teacher. As I head off to Virginia Tech and into the rest of life, I promise to
work hard to practice the ‘treat others the way you want to be treated’ golden rule as you displayed throughout the semester."

“I am so grateful for you as a person and a professor. Thank you for your heart, concern, understanding and intelligence. You are an incredibly strong and awesome woman and I am honored to know you and have had you as a leader”

“10/10 would take this course again just for kicks.”

“Dr. Deutsch is very willing to work with students, and she understood that true learning is not simply about tests. I enjoyed the relaxed way in which she taught. I am one who learns best in a relaxed, discursive environment, and her method of teaching aligned with my learning style.”

“Excellent professor and course essential to any future medical-related vocation”

“Dr. Deutsch was informative with an ability to see other’s point of view then able to connect the questions with the course material. She was able to interact with her students in an effective way.”

“Dr. Deutsch clearly covers every bit of material needed to succeed in the class. Dr. Deutsch demands common courtesy in the classroom, which makes it a pleasurable learning experience for everyone. Dr. Deutsch clearly is educated and when approached with a question she doesn't know the answer to she quickly finds the answer for you in order to have a in depth discussion and inform inquiring minds.”

“Dr. Deutsch is one of the best faculty members CVCC has.”

Unsolicited Comments from Colleagues

“I have only heard you speak words that are uplifting and productive and I admire the empathy in your tone and conduct. I hope to mimic you in this way. Thank you for being a consistent example of grace and peace to those around you” – former tutor CVCC Writing Center

“What an honor to work alongside you. You have certainly embodied the heart of CVCC in your teaching and ministry to students. As such, you certainly provide a model to be emulated.” nomination for Faculty Leadership Award

“Cynthia has a passion for psychology that is obvious in her classroom. She works diligently to present concepts in various ways to engage her students. Her love for psychology has inspired students to pursue degrees in this field. Her office door is always open; she is willing to work with students to help them understand the subject matter or help them with personal issues they are facing.” Nomination for Faculty Award CVCC

“Dr. Deutsch is dedicated to providing the very best learning experiences for all of her students. One way she is able to do this is by combining her mastery of technology with the science of psychology to maximize her students’ learning opportunities. I have been very impressed with her classes.” Mr. Chuck Hoyack, former Dean of Instruction Cochise College