



Jennifer Robinson Edwards
Distinguished Lasallian - Administrator
DENA Distinguished Lasallian
2016-2017

Jennifer Robinson has been a dedicated innovator in teaching in her 10 years at Manhattan College. Although she is not a classroom teacher, Jennifer exhibits excellence in teaching in a number of distinct and important ways that greatly impact our students' perspectives on the world.

In recommending Jenn for this distinction, Lois Harr wrote that "As Lasallian educators, we promote the education of the whole student, body, mind and spirit. It takes a whole person, a whole educator to do that successfully. Jenn's work and her life are full of the zeal, faith and integrity that make her an excellent and Distinguished Lasallian Educator".

As director of the Lasallian Outreach Volunteer program, Jenn engages hundreds of students a year in our service immersion trips that focus on social justice, community building, service, spirituality, and cultural immersion. Her approach to our LOVE trips connects the Manhattan College community with other Lasallian ministries both domestically and internationally. This truly setting us apart as a Lasallian institution of higher education. Jenn works closely with student leaders to empower them in spreading the message of the Gospel here and all over the world. There exists no other program on campus where students engage so deeply in the struggle with others, standing in solidarity with the most marginalized of our worldwide brothers and sisters.

The success of the LOVE program is a testament to the hours that Jenn has spent dedicating her time to building relationships with students. Therefore, it felt natural that we should ask those students, who have worked most closely with Jenn on the LOVE board and as LOVE leaders, what sets her apart as a Lasallian Educator. We compiled a list of words from current and former students about Jenn's qualities as an educator, person, friend and social justice advocate. So we'd like to share some of those with you now:

Some of the most prescient were compassionate, kind, passionate, warm hearted, understanding, supportive, encouraging, generous, and selfless.

Some of our favorites included sistah sistah, minister, bubbly, sassy, trail blazer and crazy passionate (or just crazy, depending on who you ask).

We have all witnessed the amazing outpouring of change that have occurred in our students hearts and minds thanks to Jenn's excellence in teaching. Saint John Baptiste de Lasalle said, "You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care." Jenn's hard work, tireless efforts, and innovative solutions ensure that our students learn in a deep, meaningful, and unforgettable way what social justice means.