



Dr. Kathryn Weld
Distinguished Lasallian Educator
Professor, Mathematics Department, School of Science
2019-2020

It is hard to imagine anyone who embodies the Lasallian ethic in teaching more than Kathy Weld. Through an all-encompassing commitment to her students, to the institution, and to the ideal of ethical education, Kathy exemplifies what it means to be a Lasallian Educator. People like Kathy are the heart and soul of our institution and a powerful tribute to our ethos of supporting the whole person and building a foundation for lifelong learning. Her commitment to these ideas has been evident across her entire career; she has never cared about the credit, only what could be done to support our students and this institution. These views can be glimpsed in her contribution of countless hours to the Return to Campus Taskforce, Faculty Welfare Committee, and Enrollment Management Committee this summer, *after* winning this award. For Kathy, service is a way of life and we all reap the rewards of her dedication.

Kathy's long career at Manhattan College has been devoted to pedagogical innovation and to creating institutional structures that facilitated that innovation. She established the Mathematics capstone course, "Problem Seminar" which stands as a metaphor for life as well as mathematics educational opportunity at Manhattan College; this course unites senior mathematics majors with mathematics education majors to foster a learning community that demonstrates the capabilities and capacities of our students. It prepares them for their next steps, whether teaching, further mathematical study, or the wider job market. In the same vein, Kathy was the driving force behind the development of the masters programs in Mathematics and in Applied Mathematics - Data Analytics. These programs were designed to enable students from historically marginalized backgrounds to achieve their potential. Helping our students, some of whom come to the major a little late in the game, requires great care because sequencing prerequisites can be difficult. Kathy has frequently and repeatedly taken it upon herself to find creative ways for students to graduate in four years; often that commitment meant that she had to teach independent studies for courses that were not offered in off-semesters to allow students to catch up with their cohort or to recover from a difficult semester. Many of these courses required uncounted hours of tutorial or additional assistance. Without Kathy's hard work and dedication, many students would have not been able to graduate, much less on time. Kathy's dedication to curricular innovation is not restricted to Mathematics students. For example, she developed a two-course sequence in Calculus for the Life Sciences. These courses are not simply the standard Calculus courses with examples from biology or other life sciences, but they were designed intentionally around the needs of students who major in a life science.

In an effort to broaden her impact to students outside of Manhattan College, Kathy Weld founded the Spuyten Duyvil Undergraduate Conference in 2006, and organized four subsequent conferences. Her commitment to this venue empowered an impressive number of undergraduates with an interest in mathematics, including at least one participant who is now her colleague and who attested that without this opportunity, he might not be here today. This effort is a testament to Kathy's belief that Manhattan College has the ability to raise the sights of our students and those of the surrounding area, enabling them to accomplish more than they ever dreamed. That dedication to enabling students to creatively express their interest in mathematics has been a powerful force in mathematical education not just at Manhattan College but also across the region and beyond. Kathy has been a driving force in *PRIMUS: Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies* as a subject editor, contributor, and general supporter. Her view is that pedagogy and research go hand in hand; they combine to prepare students to fulfill their potential while providing them opportunities to engage broader communities. In this, as in so many other ways, Kathy exemplifies Lasallian values.

Lasallian values include a devotion to mentorship of students and colleagues as well as a willingness to work on behalf of the greater good, both within the institutional community and more generally. Kathy Weld again exemplifies these values with her devotion to working with her colleagues in the Mathematics Department and across the College. She is a leader and has been so for decades. As Chair of the Council for Faculty Affairs, as Chair or Co-Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee, as the School of Science representative on the Promotion and Tenure committee, as Chair of the Mathematics Department, or as the Mathematics Graduate Program Director, Kathy has been a model leader: collaborative, engaged, and thoroughly dedicated to protecting those least able to advocate for themselves, while insisting on a quality experience for everyone. Nobody's actions could exemplify respect for the whole person more than how Kathy Weld has conducted herself since joining the faculty in 1988.

Kathy's respect for human dignity is apparent in the programs she created or supported, in the policies she advanced in her many leadership roles, and in her profound dedication to helping our students learn mathematics, develop as people, and become the best possible versions of themselves. As a published poet, accomplished hiker and impressive polymath, Kathy models putting ethical principles into practice all while exhibiting a profound respect for human dignity and a deep devotion to social justice. Her spirituality bursts forth in these activities and in the way she treats others, with respect, with patience, and by living the view that we are stronger by working together than we are in isolation. She sets a standard to which we can all aspire. In the meantime, we can appreciate how lucky we are to be colleagues and friends with someone as outstanding, as dedicated to the shared values that we hold dear, and as profoundly inspired a teacher as Kathy Weld. She may never have sought congratulations for her work, but we are glad that she finally has received it.

Presented by:

Dr. Helene Tyler with assistance from Dr. Matt Jura, Dr. Robert Suzzi Valli, and Dr. Jeff Horn