



## 2023/24 NOCE Colleague of the Year Award Winner Biographies

Career Technical Education Professor **Jennifer Oo** has excelled in her dual roles as an instructor in the Allied Health Program as well as president of the NOCE Academic Senate. Jennifer made significant contributions with the Academic Senate constitution, enhancing the distance education processes, and developing impactful curriculum for the CTE department. Her commitment to student success is evident through the innovative course development and supportive mentorship she provides. Jennifer's leadership during the pandemic, advocating for adjunct faculty, and navigating complex issues with grace, has been exceptional. She has actively supported colleagues and ensured effective collaboration across departments. Jennifer's dedication to integrating practical experiences into her teaching and proactive involvement in new and innovative initiatives like the I-BEST program highlight her unwavering commitment to both students and faculty. Her approachability, empathy, and dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment make her a standout colleague. Congratulations to the 2023/24 NOCE Outstanding Colleague of the Year, Career Technical Education Professor, **Jennifer Oo**.

Administrative Assistant II for the Office of Institutional Research and Planning **Pragyee Mool** exemplifies dedication, collaboration, and empathy in her support staff role. Pragyee's thorough knowledge of complex processes and her friendly, supportive approach have made her a key asset to both the OIRP team and the wider NOCE community. Pragyee's proactive attitude is evident in her assistance with various projects, including the successful preparation for a variety of projects and her meticulous attention to detail. She consistently goes above and beyond, whether its tracking team birthdays, proposing innovative solutions, or offering support for intricate reports. A former NOCE student, Pragyee's commitment to student success is unwavering. She brings a valuable student perspective to their work, advocating for student-centered solutions and providing direct support during challenging times, such as the pandemic. Her dedication extends beyond her role, as she actively engages in shared governance, contributes to professional development, and promotes NOCE within her community. Pragyee's exceptional contributions, combined with her passion for lifelong learning and student success, make her a deserving candidate for this prestigious award. Congratulations to the 2023/24 NOCE Outstanding Colleague of the Year, Administrative Assistant II for the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, **Pragyee Mool**.

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Instructor for the English as a Second Language and Citizenship Program **Marlo Smith** exemplifies exceptional dedication and leadership in her dual role as an instructor and as President of Adjunct Faculty United. Marlo goes above and beyond to support her students in class, ensuring they meet their learning objectives with patience and encouragement. In her leadership role, Marlo has successfully negotiated improvements for her and her colleagues such as paid office hours, healthcare, and committee stipends, significantly enhancing working conditions and parity for adjunct faculty members. In addition, her involvement in the NOCE Academic Senate reflects her commitment to shared governance and active participation. Marlo's unwavering support for colleagues and students, coupled with her innovative teaching methods and tireless advocacy for adjunct rights, underscores her outstanding contributions to our District. Her genuine care, accessibility, and dedication make her an exemplary colleague. Congratulations to the 2023/24 NOCE Outstanding Colleague of the Year, Instructor for the English as a Second Language and Citizenship Program, **Marlo Smith.**

**Courtne Voet**, Student Services Specialist for the Disability Support Services Program, exemplifies dedication, mentorship, and exceptional service within the NOCE campus community. Courtne's unwavering commitment to supporting students and staff, coupled with her proactive approach and warm personality, makes her a cherished figure throughout the Disability Support Services (DSS) and across all of NOCE. Courtne's exceptional organizational skills and tech-savvy contributions have greatly enhanced the DSS department's onboarding and training processes. She is known for her genuine care and personal touch, taking the time to build strong connections. Her resourcefulness and dedication to removing barriers for students, particularly those with disabilities, have led to tangible improvements in support services. Courtne's impact is evident in the positive feedback she receives from students and colleagues alike, reflecting her exemplary professionalism, kindness, customer service, and unwavering commitment to students and NOCE. Congratulations to the 2023/24 NOCE Outstanding Colleague of the Year, Student Services Specialist for the Disability Support Services Program, **Courtne Voet.**