

Penny Makuchal

Worcester Career and Technology Center, Newark, MD

Applied Fields Education

High School Nursing



2005 Honorees



“The majority of students in my class are from families of poverty, receive free and reduced meals, are teenage parents, work part-time jobs, and face drug use within their communities. Students’ grade point averages are minimal and their attendance rates are poor.

Many of their parents work two and three jobs and are frequently away from the home resulting in their having to care for younger siblings in the evenings. The numerous obstacles facing students coupled with a lack of adult role models sparked my creativeness in developing a mentoring program to address these issues. Project SHARING – Senior students helping with academics, role-modeling, supporting individual interests while nurturing career goals – is a mentoring program that I developed which partners my high school nursing students that I teach during the day with the college level senior nursing students that I teach in the evenings at Salisbury University. The goal of the program was for university students to serve as role models to the high school students, provide an advanced look into their future of post-secondary education, and assist students with school assignments, job searching, and college application/testing preparation.”

“My creativity provides the motivation and enthusiasm for learning and has proven successful in student achievement as demonstrated by the annual 100% pass rate that I have for students in earning their certified nursing assistant licensure for each of my 10 years of teaching.” – Penny Makuchal

“Dr. Makuchal is an extraordinary talent. Immediately upon hiring her 10 years ago, I was convinced that she was going to be a master teacher. A decade later, she continually strives for her daily classroom lessons to not only be challenging and engaging for her students, but also motivational and inspiring. She spends countless hours and valuable personal finances to develop creative lessons that take her students above and beyond anatomy and physiology and medical protocols that they have joined her class to learn.”
– Jane Pruitt, principal/supervisor, Worcester Career and Technology Center

Other Highlights:

Worcester County Teacher of the Year (2005)

USA Today Top Educator (2004)

Member, Worcester County Teachers Association

Member, Maryland State Teachers Association

Member, Maryland Nurses Association

Member, American Nurses Association

Member, Maryland School Health Nurses Association

Member, National Association of School Nurses

Member, National Education Association

Years Teaching: 10

Average Class Size: 16

Classes Taught Per Day: 3

School's Percent of ESL Students: 2

School Type: Public, Rural

Type of Class: n/a