

The Erma Byrd Center Faculty Spotlight is on Marshall University's Sandra S. Bailey, Professor, Elementary & Secondary Education, COEPD

An Interview with Marshall University's Sandra S. Bailey,
Professor, Elementary & Secondary Education
by Lisa Moten, Erma Byrd Center Director

Lisa Moten: How long have you been teaching at the Erma Byrd Center?

Sandra Bailey: *I have worked at the Erma Byrd Center since it opened in 2007. I was able to pick out my office before it was an office. When the Center was being built, I actually picked out my office space using lines on the concrete floor.*

Lisa Moten: What do you enjoy most about teaching/working at the Erma Byrd Center?

Sandra Bailey: *I like that it is close to home and that it is such a modern facility! The Center provides an opportunity for students (in southern West Virginia) to pursue higher education opportunities that they may not have access to otherwise. I appreciate working collaboratively with faculty and staff from other institutions, and I really appreciate Lisa Moten's leadership and the direction she has taken the Center!*

Lisa Moten: Share your best teaching tip to keep students engaged in learning.

Sandra Bailey: *Online teaching is very different than face-to-face teaching and I do both. In face-to-face teaching, I think modeling is one of the most important tools that we have available to us as teachers. If I want my students to teach an inductive lesson, then I model what an inductive lesson should look like before I ask them to teach one. I firmly believe that for students to internalize what we are teaching them, they need the opportunity to practice. I strive to make my classroom environment warm and inviting so that students are comfortable in sharing and practicing new ideas.*

In online teaching, I believe students need easy access to the instructor, clear guidelines and due dates, and weekly assignments to keep them engaged with the course and instructor.

There should be a variety of course materials along with clearly established rubrics for every assignment. As adult learners, it is important for students to learn to self-assess their assignments using a rubric prior to submitting it to the instructor for grading.



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