Thank you Mary for the thoughtful and wonderful introduction and Thank you Paul for your expertise and excellence in playing for my lecture today!

Welcome! I would like to take a few moments to give a special welcome to the following people: I would like to thank my Mom- Norma and my Aunt Sue for trekking here to Florissant Valley to hear my lecture, My dear friend Beth Anderhub for her assistance in getting
them here safely, Mrs. Annabelle Underwood and her daughter Kathy - who show support year after year for the recipients, my colleagues and friends from Florissant Valley and the other campus locations. My PE “Peeps” and those in attendance from the Cosand Center.

The day has arrived for me to give the Underwood Memorial Lecture. (I can finally enjoy being the 2016 recipient in about an hour 😊) !!!!!!! I spent a great deal of time deciding the theme, the title, and content I wanted to present to you today. I hope at the
conclusion, you have laughed a little…………reflected a little………… have a better understanding of the award, the man it is named for, the deep and long-standing tradition this award holds at the Florissant Valley campus-how it is unique for the district, ………..and a renewed appreciation for teaching.

PUT UP SLIDE OF DAVID L. UNDERWOOD PLEASE

1st let me start with the man the award is named for---David L. Underwood........... *****he must have
been quite a man------***** he started as a Library Faculty member and then moved into Academic Administration serving as a Dean for our campus..........................Unfortunately he passed away at the young age of 49. While attending a conference for the College............ The campus community suffered a great loss when he passed away.....In reading the early Underwood Lectures it was a clear and consistent theme from his friends and colleagues....... .................As a way to pay tribute to this him ..... the David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award was created....
Reading the previous recipients lectures several characteristics mentioned about David Underwood I hold dear in my own life kept popping up............ Trust, respect....... Integrity..... and simply being a good human..................The following statements are from prior award recipients..................here is a glimpse into David Underwood as seen by a few of his peers............... One award recipient noted.................... “In preparation for today, I have listened to the tapes of prior lectures and in doing so I have discovered the common thread between them all------ “the highest respect they had for Dave Underwood
both as an individual and as an educator and the importance of receiving this award in each of their careers”

Another recipient noted that when David Underwood moved to administration..... he did it eagerly, out of a spirit of personal challenge and out of intense pride in the Junior College District.......which he had helped build........... In particular, he had pride in Florissant Valley and what it was beginning to represent .. in the community... the metropolitan area... the state... and in the nation..........He shared that pride with many of us...With this sense of shared building... David
became a humanistic administrator. For him the students... community... faculty and staff needs had to be assessed in detail .......before deciding the priorities to support........ “He was too much the educator to shelve education and educators in the classroom and too much the humanist to apply a cookie cutter approach to management”. He had sufficient expertise to be flexible and humble.

.........................In a separate lecture he was described as a “walking administrator and educator and even though not in the classroom since 1967.... He never stopped teaching... the entire campus was his classroom....
Faculty, staff, and students were HIS students”. He made an effort several times a day to visit every building and remain close to the front lines.

One faculty member who was seeking funds for a student trip said…. (about David Underwood) … “he met with me… he listened and talked about teaching…...He told me to go ahead with the trip… with a few suggested changes…...and then told me he would supplement my operating budget to reduce the cost to students and felt that the trip warranted regular summer pay…... “as I left his office----- with the feeling he was the most gracious man that I had ever met…. He wanted
me to teach as well as I could........... and he wanted to help me do it......

..............................................................................................

These are just few examples from past lectures that note who David Underwood was as a faculty member, an administrator and how highly his colleagues thought of him.

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Now that you have glimpse of who he was... let me share with you the unique and wonderful traditions of this award........ 1st..... the past 3 recipients are the “committee” who selects the next winner..... so once you receive this honor... you will be a part of the “team
to choose the next 3 recipients”

............... Very cool! The person who received the award 3 years ago is charged with the responsibility of doing the formal introduction of the current winner during the opening week lecture....... This year it is Mary Luebke...... The person that was named the recipient 2 years ago is charged with gathering information to create the....................... “guess who it is with mystery tidbits” to do the brief introduction at the announcement ceremony held in April in the David L. Underwood Library ........ This year it was Sharon Fox... .....It is quite a build up to the announcement for those in the
audience... everyone tries to guess......... “who is it” as the “tease progresses” ............. I am pleased to know that my acting skills must have been on point that day... Gina Burroughs (who was standing by me at the announcement) informed me later that she didn’t guess at all it me and I didn’t “give anything away”....... I had my notebook in my hand, my lanyard with keys and my standard glass of unsweet tea in my other hand).......I did this on purpose as to not give any clues 😊............... I am not really that great of an actor 😊.........
The past years recipient has the task of “telling the next recipeint” in a surprise fashion.... This year is was Paul Higdon....
Part of the Underwood tradition is to tell during the opening lecture........ “how you found out you were selected”........ Well.................. Here is my story..... Paul came into my office one day pacing and ranting with his note pad and cup of coffee..... He was all wound up and kept talking about how he was ...... “going to get grieved” by his department faculty........ This seemed like a logical visit since He is a department chair and I was the Union President at the time..... .....He starts telling me stories of different problems and asks me to write them all down so I can keep the issues sorted and the players straight......... I write down the notes and start responding to him
and try to figure out what is going on.......I remember saying....”
well................ this one isn’t a grievance... it’s just a gripe..........he looks frustrated and says.........” give me the notepad so he can write down what I think should happen to solve the issues”..... he scribbles a few seconds and sets the note pad down on my desk for me to review.......... I read it..................... In big letters it says..... THIS IS ALL BS... YOU ARE THE 2016 UNDERWOOD AWARD RECIPIENT................................... My first response was......UHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH NO.......... He says YES..... ......I say NOOOO ... he argues YES..............AT THAT MOMENT .... The panic sets in....
OH NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO the Fall lecture 😊 .............Then he lets me know I can tell NO ONE until the announcement weeks later..... ...........It wasn’t until much later at lunch with Mary, Sharon, and Paul that I found out they had met all morning and that Paul took NO time to plot out his method of “telling the recipient”............. Mary actually laughed and said he must have practically ran to my office to “spill the news”.............I guess he didn’t want to have to keep the secret long 😊

..........Ironically many of the other lecture award winners note this same panic, fear, and stress about the
preparation and presentation of the Lecture: Everyone wants to do justice to the memory of David Underwood and what the award represents. This actually brought me comfort knowing so many other recipients felt the same as I did when finding out:)

Since I was SWORN to secrecy until the April announcement: I had to act like I didn’t know for about a month and tell No ONE!!!! (Except .... I did tell my Dog Atlas) 😊.......... I only let my mom know I had “won an award at the College, but couldn’t say much about it yet and that I would tell her more in about a month. It was hard to not talk
about it or discuss it................(Especially if you know me personally..................... I LOVE to talk) 😊.............................................
When you are chosen… you are proud, excited, nervous, and honored all at the same time. You want to tell so that you can celebrate and vent about the impending stress of what I now refer to as ..........“the summer of needing TUMS and Mylanta” 😊 😊.............................................
Other pieces of the wonderful puzzle are......

There is a light reception on the day of the announcement on the 3rd floor of the library to honor the newest recipient for the campus community....There is a formal reception held for prior
recipients, the Underwood family, invitees of the recipient, and select College personnel.... And a private breakfast held the morning of the Underwood memorial lecture......I learned some recipients attend and socialize breakfast while others choose to sit out to prepare for this event.... I chose to stop in and visit but didn’t want to “stuff my face” as to not have any incidents to be played on YouTube at a later date 😊................. Can you imagine... “the puking Underwood lecture” 😊 😊 Don’t need that one out there in the cyber universe 😊 😊

Oh yeah..... I also found out the recipient is the “grand marshall” for graduation....
Since we do a college-wide graduation now.... I finally figured out whay I was a marshall this year.... :) ..............

Another unique factor about this award is that the campus community gets to submit names of faculty or staff to be considered by the selection committee for the next recipient.............

Once I was told I was the recipient, I sat and wondered ... .................Who nominated me???.... How did I get chosen..................You never find out who nominated you... but I do want to thank the person who submitted my name for consideration.............and as far
as the selection ..................................here is a video clip of how I believe the selection could have gone down..........

PLAY VIDEO CLIP OF PAUL, MARY AND SHARON AND “ATLAS”

IT Never hurts to have advocates ......... human or animal ☺ ☺ ☺..............................

Thank you Mary, Paul and Sharon for choosing me as the 2016 recipient. Being chosen by the three of you REALLY means something.. I respect each of you so much!
I now want to provide a few facts and statistics about the Underwood award.

Bring up 2 slides of “underwood statistics” so I can read through them.

Let’s give the “Underwood Club” recipients another hand!!!!!!!!!!

Please put up PE slide.

At this time I would like to make a few comments related to our discipline-
Physical Education.....................
we must be doing something right all these years”….

To stand with English and Mathematics with 4 recipients… is something to be admired and acknowledged………………... Many outside of our discipline do not understand “what we do”, “how we fit in” or the academic preparation that goes into our degrees……………………. In current academic circles one may see our discipline be referred as….. Physical Education .....Health and Wellness... Exercise Science.. or Kinesiology..... Our major is highly loaded with science courses such as Biology, Invertebrate Zoology, AP 1 and 2, Physical Science,
Chemistry and or Physics. Statistics is also required as a part of the degree programs. One of my longtime friends who is retired now………………………………………………

Dave Herzog from business…. Made a joking comment when we discussed it one day -while planning the 1st Accelerated Learning Program module… he said…. ……“I thought you learned bounce the ball 1 and bounce the ball 2”….and then shook his head with laughter and yet amazement…………. “I had no idea how tough your degree program is and the amount of science and content it requires. We laughed about that often in years to come……I believe that day he gained a new
appreciation for our discipline and had a better understanding of the curriculum offered by our department. I bring this example into my lecture to ask each of you to seek out information ........ ask and learn about other disciplines outside of your academic preparation.................. try to develop an appreciation for all the wonderful disciplines and wide range of courses we offer at Florissant Valley................Here is a challenge for everyone in the audience today.......... .......To gain an appreciation for a new content area and to remember what it is like to “Learn something new........the excitement... the stress... the frustration. the time and
dedication....... Take time to “learn something new”... Some of you are taking additional graduate coursework... some taking continuing education courses and some taking things “just for fun of learning”....... This keeps us in the mindset of how our students feel when we ask them to open their minds to gain new knowledge and LEARN...Not always easy for them... and sometimes downright frightening!

Here is a video of clip of my attempt at learning something new and outside of my comfort zone....
Play the video clip of me playing the piano

Believe it or not that was actually challenging for me 😊

Teaching is a tough profession and yet rewarding... .......not always easy............... but rewarding.... I would like to spend a few moments to read you a story.... of Lullian Lulkin... a 35 year teacher at the Calhoun School in Manhattan.....

I pulled this from the Huffington Post and found it most appropriate for my
message today... Steve Nelson Head of the Calhoun School in Manhattan wrote of Lillian in 2013 when she passed away:

On Saturday, January 5, Lillian Lulkin passed away in New York City at age 78. She retired in 2004, having taught for 35 years at the Calhoun School. There was no tribute in The New York Times, no outpouring of national or local grief or admiration for a life lived with nobility... only a small death notice in tiny type, buried deep in the paper.

This same week The New York Times more fully eulogized a technology activist, an Italian actress, a hokey television personality, a “trading card innovator,” a former McDonald’s
executive, a football coach and the man who named the Kindle.

Teachers have always been taken for granted, despite doing the most important work in the world. In recent years it has gotten worse, as teachers have been absorbing the misplaced blame for the state of education in America.

There are many problems in public and private education, but teachers are not one of them. Any dispassionate view of the alleged decline of achievement in American schools would conclude that among the complex variables — cultural shifts, economic and social inequity, inadequate funding, poor public policy, lousy parenting — the only thing that has not changed is the dedication and skill of teachers.
A more apt characterization of teachers might be found in the tribute I wrote nine years ago on the occasion of Lil’s retirement. I offer it again as a tribute to Lil and to all great teachers, then and now.

This from Steve’s tribute to Lil at her retirement party in 2004.

Dear Lil,

Thirty five years, 15 kids — give or take — to a class. That makes 525 kids you have loved and taught. You’ve spent about 50,400 hours teaching during those 35 years. That’s enough time to visit Pluto and return, yet you have stayed in one place. Remarkable.

During this, your final year of teaching, rock stars have been idolized, athletes
have signed multi-million dollar contracts before they are old enough to vote and business leaders have been convicted because of shabby ethics and practices. They have been in The New York Times and you have not. You have stayed in one place, teaching children while controversy swirled over the war in Vietnam, while the Hubble Telescope captured breathtaking pictures of the infant universe, and while the Dow Jones Industrial average went from 750 to 12,000. You have stayed in one place, teaching children, while Elvis died and reappeared in small towns everywhere, while the Berlin Wall fell, and while the nation enjoyed unprecedented prosperity and endured unspeakable terror.
A lot happened while you were just sitting around in one place teaching children!

There is no profession as important as teaching children and you have done it with rare grace, skill, good humor and abundant love. You should be the Times Magazine Woman of the Year. You should win multiple Oscars, Tonys and Emmys. You should be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Niceness and the Nobel Prize for Dedication. But you won’t. Teachers don’t become household names unless they do something really awful and all you have done are really wonderful things.

Yes, you have taught long enough to visit Pluto and return, yet you have stayed in one place. Some people travel to far
galaxies and other people prepare them for the trip. For 35 years you have been Calhoun’s NASA. You have inspired and cajoled, taught and hugged. You have given your hundreds of kids a confident and unconditionally affirming start and sewn their flight jackets with threads of wisdom and joy. You’ve laughed at their 5-year old jokes and been gob-smacked by their insights. You’ve wiped their noses (and behinds) and put smiles back on their faces just when they needed it. And because of you, 525 kids believed they could travel to the stars or accomplish anything they wished. And they have. And they will.

There can be no life achievement greater than to have affected the lives of 525 humans in a profound and irreversible
way. *In any other context this statement might be trite, but in your case it is irrefutably true: You have changed the world for the better.*

Let’s give Lullian a big hand and Steve for sharing with the world

What an amazing tribute to an amazing teacher 😊

From this I drew inspiration to reach out to several of our Florissant Valley Faculty members... ... I asked 9 faculty members to provide me with a single greatest success story........ Please enjoy the audio/visual presentation ....which
The powerpoint of “teaching and learning student success stories” and also play the DVD/file

Please give the faculty members a hand who were willing to share a student story with me so I could share it with you today 😊

Our teaching faculty and staff are so extraordinary at Florissant Valley... I could have presented 1,000 stories to you 😊... but there just wasn’t enough time and ink 😊😊...............I would like to suggest something new for our campus .......................
I would like to encourage our new Provost Elizabeth to create a mid-term “open mic night” for the faculty and staff to have a pot-luck type of meal for any interested to bring a dish... come socialize with others from around our campus... and to give 1 minute to “speed share” .... You know like..... “speed date” a student success for the semester... we need to keep the “family feel” on our campus and venture outside of our departments and disciplines to learn out “what is going on in the Valley”. Our community and campus have been through tough times over the last couple of years and we need to lean on each other to provide support, inspiration and
laughter for each other! I have worked with faculty, staff, and administration around the district and no other location has the “family feel” that Florissant Valley does.... We can never let that go..... It was what people loved about David L. Underwood and what many of us love about our years of service on this campus.

I have created a retrospective of all Underwood Award Winners with tidbits included... Please enjoy the “Underwood Club” PowerPoint .............

Please play the “Underwood Club” PowerPoint
Give the Recipients another hand..........

I have a gift for you Mrs. Underwood and Kathy...... I am asking Sharon Fox to hand them to you at this time... ....... I so appreciate your support for our campus all of these years..... You both are honorary members of the “club” from this day forward....

I have almost made it to the closing........ I need to take a few moments to thank several people today... thank you to Paul Huddleston from our KCFV Radio station ..for his time and effort to help create and edit video clips and for assisting me in
recording the “student success stories” audio…. I want to thank “T” Bryant Williamson and Marie McCool from our FV Theatre Department for their time and effort to make this production go off without a hitch and for providing rehearsal times 😊

I need to thank Shelia ... M (?) for recording my “learning clip” in the piano lab.

Also want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come and listen to my lecture.

I have one last brief clip for you as I close for the day.
Play the ending clip of me and Atlas “wrap it up”

NO GO OUT there and begin to create your next student success story...Have a GREAT Fall semester! Thank you!