



Associated Students

Recognition # 2

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Subject: Professor Ellen Caldwell

Date: June 2, 2020

Whereas: This recognition is dedicated to Ellen Caldwell, a professor at Mt. San Antonio College who teaches multiple diverse art history courses. She received a BA in Art from Santa Clara University, in addition to minoring in Classics and Environmental Studies. She then went on to receive her MA in Art History from UC Santa Barbara. As a professor at Mt. SAC, Professor Caldwell has helped serve as an educator and translator who draws links to the historical messages found in many pieces of art and the culturally relevant topics that are present in today's culture. By drawing these connections, she succeeds in broadening the perspectives of her students by challenging them to open their eyes to the lessons that many works of art have to give.

Whereas: In her classes, she includes a wide variety of visual works, from the traditional art pieces of paintings, ceramics and sculptures, to the visceral modern artforms of performance art as well as various pieces that can range dramatically in size, from those that tower above you to those that can fit in the palm of your hand. She builds connections to these pieces by relating them to the artist's plight, encouraging students to look at every piece as the artist would have, as well as in new ways that allow students to relate to the art in their own way. In Professor Caldwell's classroom pieces come from all different points of history, every artist, no matter how similar the work of art, is going through unique problems of their own. By encouraging students to look at art from both the artists point of view and encouraging students to be open about the ways they individually can relate to the artwork, her students are able to establish a much deeper connection to the piece, allowing them to provide insightful analysis of the works that have become more dear to them.

In her classroom, students are able to get far more than they bargained for because in our conversations she intersects art with race, gender, sexuality and

identity in ways that allow students to get more out of the class than they would have if the course had been about any singular topic. As a result, she is able to pique the interest of all her students and inspires them to want to get involved in the class discussion because of how relevant the topics are. As a professor, she also encourages her students to be open about any disagreements they have with the way people and art are portrayed in both visual and written mediums. By opening up this type of discourse, Professor Caldwell creates an environment that allows for students to be critical because she wants every student to feel as though they can speak up if they feel strongly about any particular topic. In doing so, she creates an environment where students want to speak up because they are interested and they feel comfortable doing so because she encourages thoughtful criticisms.

In addition to providing an accessible, astonishing number of artworks, articles, and current news, Professor Caldwell has introduced live, contemporary artists into classrooms through virtual interviews. Most notably, she has continuously introduced Ria Brodell, a non-binary trans artist that centers on the artistic and historic representation of past LGBTQ figures, to students partaking in her women and gender in art history courses. By conducting and overseeing class interviews almost every semester, Professor Caldwell continues to ignite rare opportunities for students that reflect on potential career projects and forms of undergraduate research.

What was initiated as a class project, Professor Caldwell launched an “Art + Feminism Wikipedia-edit-a-thon” event with the Mt. SAC Library during Spring of 2019. With the advent of Wikipedia and Internet research, Professor Caldwell generated an inclusive platform for students to enhance their research skills onto a source of accessible information, such as Wikipedia. Not only did she provide an inclusive opportunity for students to extend their research skills, but also heightened awareness of minority figures and unconventional artists in the field of art history.

Beyond class lectures, Professor Caldwell assists and guides students in their independent research and writing projects that often focus on race, gender, sexuality, and identity through an intersectional and inclusive lens. Additionally, Professor Caldwell provides extensive resources with her students in regards to not only research conferences, but also off-campus events that relate to inclusive discussion panels, art galleries, and local museum seminars. Through Professor Caldwell’s devoted efforts in promoting research opportunities and co-curricular, art history events for students, she has bridged rare and progressive opportunities for students with perceptible interests in the realm of art history.

Through RSCO (Recognized Student Clubs and Organizations) efforts, Professor Caldwell is a co-advisor for the SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) Club for the 2020 Spring Semester, where she takes part in encouraging discourse in club meetings. The SAGA Club is an interactive club that primarily educates and engages SAGA members through insightful discussions and LGBTQ+ resources.

Professor Caldwell has played an integral part in helping SAGA gain advisors, acknowledge different points of view, and educate club members on how to treat others with respect and integrity. Near the end of every SAGA meeting, Professor Caldwell assists other advisors and officers in ensuring a respectful environment for every student, while also providing links of possible research topics and essential resources to students. SAGA now considers Professor Caldwell to be an irreplaceable asset and co-advisor to the club due to her providing extensive resources and activities, while educating SAGA officers on LGBTQ+ activists and history.

Whereas: The ethical philosophy and intuitive teachings of Professor Ellen Caldwell align with the core values of Associated Students. Through her lectures and contributed efforts for campus life, Professor Caldwell promotes gender and sexuality equality through social advocacy. She empowers her students to critically examine any socioeconomic adversity that hinders progress and seek pragmatic solutions to improve campus life. Furthermore, Professor Caldwell provides a safe space for students to express themselves without worry of being misgendered, or being put into uncomfortable situations. Professor Caldwell's heartwarming personality draws students to reach out to her in times of need, and she goes to great lengths to bring attention to student resources, and make students feel welcome in her classroom. She embodies the very definition of our vision statement, by empowering students both in and out of the classroom, and encouraging them to find their own unique voice which allows them to advocate for their experiences in any facet of their life.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approve this recognition of Professor Ellen Caldwell.

A.S. Senate			
For: _____	Against: _____	Abstain: <u>UNANIMOUS</u>	Date: <u>5/19/20</u>
A.S. Executive Board			
For: _____	Against: _____	Abstain: <u>UNANIMOUS</u>	Date: <u>5/19/20</u>
A.S. President			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Veto	Signature: _____	Date: _____