

## Faculty Member Award Nomination Form

*The ACT Faculty Member Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in teaching in the community and technical college system.*

Name of nominee: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.): Dr. Tyler Wallace

Title: Math Instructor

Organization: Big Bend Community College

Daytime phone no.: 509.793.2150 Email: [Tylerw@bigbend.edu](mailto:Tylertw@bigbend.edu)

Nominated by: Board Chair Gary Chandler and the Board of Trustees

College: Big Bend Community College

Title: Board Chair

Daytime phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please include this nominations form, a criteria statement and two letters of support (one of which is from the Board of Trustees).*

Send complete packet **no later than March 22, 2024**, to:

ACT  
ATTN: Awards Committee  
PO Box 42495  
Olympia, WA 98504-2495  
or  
Email: [ktanaka@sbctc.edu](mailto:ktanaka@sbctc.edu)

## **Faculty Member Award**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the ACT **Faculty Member Award** is to recognize an individual who has demonstrated excellence in teaching in the community and technical college system.

### **Eligibility:**

Any full-time instructor of a Washington community or technical college is eligible to receive this award. The nominee must be currently employed when the nomination is submitted.

### **Criteria:**

The nomination must come from an ACT trustee and the following questions must be answered:

- In what ways has the educator demonstrated excellence in teaching?
- **In what ways has this educator engaged and encouraged students not only in the classroom but in their college experience as a whole?"**
- What has this educator initiated and helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?
- How has this educator served on technical or special committees that have positively affected the community, state, or nation?
- How has this educator provided leadership in helping to solve challenges facing two-year postsecondary education?
- How has this educator been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state and/or national two-year postsecondary associations?
- What awards or honors has this educator received in recognition of leadership in the college or community?

### **Nominations:**

In order to be considered complete, the nominations packet must contain the following:

- The completed nominations form.
- A criteria statement, which addresses each criteria point in the order listed. The statements must demonstrate how the nominee meets the criteria. A response covering each question is required.\*
- Two letters of support must be submitted with the nomination, including:
  - A letter from the Board of Trustees that states the board supports the nomination;\* and
  - One additional letter of support.\*
- Nominations should be sent **no later than March 22, 2024**, to:

ACT • PO Box 42495 • Olympia, WA 98504-2495

Or Email: [ktanaka@sbctc.edu](mailto:ktanaka@sbctc.edu)

\* The nominations can be provided in any format the college desires. **Additionally, ACT staff needs the following documents to be provided in Word format so the nomination can be adapted for submission to the ACCT awards program:**

- **The criteria statement; and**
- **All of the letters of support.**

### **Selection:**

ACT's Awards Committee will serve as the selection committee. Nominations will be judged on content, presentation, letters of recommendation and attributes demonstrating leadership and furthering the mission of community and technical colleges.

2024 ACT Faculty Member Award Criteria Statement  
Dr. Tyler Wallace

**In what ways has the educator demonstrated excellence in teaching?**

Dr. Tyler Wallace, an inspiration to our college, continually innovates his instruction to engage students. Accessibility to education is the cornerstone of Dr. Wallace's approach to teaching. Here are a few examples:

- Pioneering flipped classrooms and online lectures *years before COVID*, he prioritizes accessibility by using Zoom for remote connections and broadcasting live classes. His video lectures are freely available to supplement student learning.
- Big Bend is a Hispanic Serving Institution and our service district encompasses communities where Spanish is the primary language spoken at home. Dr. Wallace dedicated his summers to Spanish language immersion with the goal of learning the language to better assist Spanish-speaking students in the STEM Center—Big Bend's tutoring center for math and sciences—and in his classes.
- He developed an online social media presence leveraging the platforms that student use. He has over 300,000 followers on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#), aiming to make math concepts relatable and memorable.
- Dr. Wallace actively tackles financial barriers by embracing open educational resources thus reducing textbook costs for students. His contributions extend beyond Big Bend as an author of free textbooks ([PreCalc](#), [Algebra](#), [Statistics](#)) in various math disciplines to benefit students and instructors alike.

**In what ways has this educator engaged and encouraged students not only in the classroom but in their college experience as a whole?"**

Dr. Wallace dedicates himself to supporting students holistically, serving as a faculty advisor for pre-nursing students and tutoring in the STEM Center. As mentioned, he is fluent in Spanish and uses this skill to connect with Spanish speaking students. Additionally, he actively engages with student athletes, advises multiple clubs (Ballroom Dance and cross-country running), and delivers keynote speeches on resilience and growth. He has been the requested keynote multiple times by Big Bend's Phi Theta Kappa chapter for their induction ceremony and most recently he spoke at Big Bend's Passion Project Showcase. He fosters community among students through quarterly study sessions, where calculus students bond over shared meals and discuss academic and personal goals.

**What has this educator initiated and helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?**

Dr. Tyler Wallace has been a transformative leader in mathematics education, implementing initiatives that have significantly improved student success. Under his guidance, the mathematics department pioneered an emporium-style math lab, boosting success rates in precollege mathematics *by nearly 30%*. He spearheaded innovative placement methods, including high school transcript evaluation, and collaborated with the BEdA department to ensure placement options for BEdA students. Moreover, Dr. Wallace led the development of personalized pathways through the mathematics curriculum, such as the Math for Educators course, and introduced Just in Time co-enrollment courses to streamline students' progression to college-level classes.

**How has this educator served on technical or special committees that have positively affected the community, state, or nation?**

Dr. Tyler Wallace's commitment to community, state, and national initiatives is truly inspiring. Locally, he leads the math/science division with a focus on fostering student success, equity, and inclusion. His involvement in committees like the Student Recognition Workgroup and the Data Committee reflects his dedication to improving student outcomes and ensuring equitable opportunities for all. He also serves as the President of the Faculty Union.

On a broader scale, Dr. Wallace's contributions extend to the state level, where he collaborates with organizations like SBCTC and WAMATYC to shape policies and initiatives that benefit educators and students statewide. His involvement in standardizing outcomes for Pre-Calculus courses demonstrates his commitment to academic excellence and consistency across community colleges.

Nationally, through his engagement with AMATYC, Dr. Wallace lends his expertise to various subcommittees, addressing crucial areas such as pre-college mathematics and departmental leadership. His efforts not only impact students locally but also contribute to advancements in math education on a national level. Dr. Wallace's dedication to service and advocacy exemplifies the transformative role educators can play in shaping the future of education.

**How has this educator provided leadership in helping to solve challenges facing two-year postsecondary education?**

Dr. Wallace has been proactive in addressing challenges faced by Big Bend students and then sharing his experiences with other professionals across the community college sector.

- As dual enrollment evolves, Dr. Wallace applies his doctoral research to facilitate access to college credits for high school students, serving as a mentor and ensuring program quality across Big Bend's service district.
- Recognizing the struggles students face in math, he pioneers innovative teaching methods and shares expertise through presentations nationwide. He has presented and co-presented at countless conferences, including local, state, and national organizations, to help others implement similar programs at their colleges.
- To alleviate financial burdens, Dr. Wallace pioneered the use of open-source textbooks among the math department at Big Bend.
- He addressed accessibility barriers by leveraging technology, offering online lectures and Zoom support, long before COVID.

Dr. Wallace's tireless dedication exemplifies his commitment to transforming education and overcoming the obstacles students face in pursuit of their dreams.

**How has this educator been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state and/or national two-year postsecondary associations?**

Dr. Tyler Wallace has been active in developing, organizing, and supporting both state and national two-year postsecondary associations. He is an active member in WAMATYC (Washington Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges), attending annual meetings, conferences, and presenting regularly for the association and their annual conferences. In addition, he is a member of the parent organization, AMATYC (American Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges). This allows him to take part in many national discussions and trainings around mathematics, mathematics education, equity in the classroom, and innovative policy changes influencing mathematics education. Locally, he serves as a faculty leader as the local college association president where he seeks to bring together faculty and administration to find solutions to help students be successful. He has also served as vice-president and treasurer to the local college association in the past. In addition, he has been a member in many other national organizations around mathematics education, including NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics), MAA (Mathematics Association of America), and AMS (American Mathematical Society).

**What awards or honors has this educator received in recognition of leadership in the college or community?**

Dr. Tyler Wallace has garnered numerous accolades for his outstanding leadership in both the college and the community. Recently, he was honored with the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award, a testament to his dedication recognized by the student body. Additionally, his impact as an instructor has been lauded with two Athletic Department Certificates of Excellence, bestowed by student athletes.

His commitment to improving student success rates in pre-college math classes has earned him recognition as a NISOD Master Presenter by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. Moreover, Dr. Wallace has been a three-time recipient of the Big Bend Community College Exceptional Faculty Award, highlighting his contributions to developing open educational resources and his dedication to professional development, including immersive language learning experiences such as studying in Ecuador to tutor students in Spanish.

Driven by a passion for continual growth, Dr. Wallace has been consistently recognized for his commitment to professional development, amassing numerous hours of training. He has also secured multiple grants, locally and nationally, to support the development of open educational textbooks for algebra, statistics, and calculus, making education more accessible and affordable for students.

Furthermore, Dr. Wallace's innovative approaches to teaching mathematics have been featured in the Big Bend Passion Project, where he shared insights on utilizing social media to inspire a love for learning mathematics, both inside and outside the classroom.