

Christine Gray Tinnesz, Ph.D.

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Professional Accomplishments

- Excellence in Teaching Award, Buffalo State College, November, 2013
- The Institutional Research Leadership in Student Retention Award in October, 2012.
- Nominated for Professor of the Year, 2013, Medaille College.
- Numerous national presentations on applied critical thinking and active learning strategies
- Co-authored two textbooks and written several journal articles.

Teaching Experience

University at Buffalo, 2018-current

Written Communication

- Teach over 130 students per semester how to apply the writing process to their individual fields
- Work with a diverse student population, including many international students, on learning skills to evaluate their own writing skills
- Assess student progress through regular writing assignments and presentations

Canisius College, 2014-2018

Oral Communication

- Challenged and motivated students through in-depth lectures and discussions
- Helped students develop comprehensive ideas and format outlines to write research papers
- Emphasized the importance of using details and evidence in substantiating a presentation's central thesis

SUNY Buffalo State College 2011-2018

Educational Psychology

- Transferred psychological research studies into applications for best teaching and learning practices
- Identified and discussed learning, motivational, and developmental theories related to education.
- Discussed quality classroom and institutional practices in education

Adolescent Development

- Explained major changes in adolescents' cognitive development and social relationships in terms of current developmental theories.
- Articulated similarities and differences in the experience of adolescence according to gender, culture, and communities.
- Recognized topics encountered during adolescence within the context of development, such as identity development, violence in schools, sexuality, music, and drug and alcohol use

Medaille College 2010-2017

Explorations in Diversity

- Worked with graduate students to explain the role of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and religion in education
- Initiated thought-provoking classroom discussions on the importance of understanding student disabilities
- Led students through cooperative learning groups on how to implement a multicultural curriculum

Professional Experience

Associate Director & Instructor, Methods of Inquiry Program, 2000-2010. The Methods of Inquiry Program was a nationally recognized critical thinking program designed to develop college students into successful learners.

- Designed and taught undergraduate critical thinking course where students learned how to become actively involved in their learning process.
- Topics included: reading strategies, learning and thinking approaches, the importance of motivation in learning, memory, understanding concepts, recognizing different points of view and assumptions.
- Provided programs and/or support to Advising, Athletics, C-STEP, EOP, Office of Preparatory Programs, School of Medicine, the School of Management, the Office of Disabilities, and the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Conducted faculty workshops on improving student learning
- Worked collaboratively with Liberty Partnership Programs to enhance critical thinking skills of school-age students.
- Participated in on-going research and biannual evaluation of the program.
- Supervised several graduate teaching assistants and dozens of undergraduate peer monitors

Teaching Assistant, Methods of Inquiry Program, August 1997-August 2000

- Oversaw administration and grading procedures for 90 student lecture class.
- Supervised student monitors by conducting weekly meetings and developing their leadership skills.
- Provided weekly instruction to ten students per semester on application of skills to other courses.

SUNY Morrisville College

Instructor, College Study Skills, August 1994-August 1996

- Taught time management, test taking, writing, and problem solving skills.
- Students learned how to apply these skills into their other coursework and became more familiar with library resources.

Coordinator of Tutorial Services, August 1994-August 1996

- Aided in the formation of a developmental program for “at-risk” students.
- Advised students on their academic needs and goals. Selected, trained, and evaluated 83 tutors and supervised 300 students in the College Skills Center.
- Chairperson of campus Judicial Board

Education

Ph.D. Social Foundations of Education, 2001

Dissertation: "American and International Students: Satisfaction within the University Classroom"
University at Buffalo

M.S. Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, 1996
Syracuse University

B.S. Elementary Education, 1994
State University of New York College at Oswego

People to People
University of Missouri Global Education Program
Summer 1996

Publications

Ahuna, K. H., & Tinnesz, C. G. (2016). Using Questions to Frame a Metacognitive Classroom. In H. Blythe, C. Sweet, & R. Carpenter. *It Works For Me, Metacognitively: Shared Tips for Effective Teaching*. Stillwater, OK: New Forums.

Ahuna, K. H., Tinnesz, C. G., & Kiener, M. S. (2014). A new era of critical thinking in professional programs. *Transformative Dialogues: Teaching and Learning Journal*, 7(3), 1-9.

Patterson, D., Ahuna, K., Tinnesz, C.G., & Vanzile-Tamsen, C. (2014). Using self-regulated learning methods to increase Native American college retention. *Journal of College Student Retention*, 16(2) 219-237.

Kiener, M. S., Ahuna, K. H., & Gray Tinnesz, C. (2013) Documenting critical thinking in a capstone course: Moving students toward a professional disposition. *Educational Action Research*.

"Methods of Inquiry: Using critical thinking skills to retain students." *Innovative Higher Education*, 36 (4). August 2011.

"Toward college success: Internalizing active and dynamic strategies," *College Teaching Journal*, 54 (4). Fall 2006.

Methods of Inquiry: Applied critical thinking, 2nd ed. (2006). Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt.

Methods of Inquiry: Applied critical thinking (2003). Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt.

Honors and Awards

SUNY Online Teaching Ambassador Recognition, March 2025

Institutional Research Leadership in Student Retention Award given by The National Symposium on Student Retention. October 2012

Meritorious Program and Initiative Award given by The National Symposium on Student Retention November, 2010

Grants

SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant, “iSucceed: The First Year College Experience”
2017-2020

Presentations

- **“Evaluating Perspectives,”** Eastern Communication Association Convention, March 26, 2025
- **“Mentoring undergraduate students using critical thinking skills,”** Mentor Moments Podcast, Maryville University, October 26, 2024
- **“Using collaboration and experiential learning to improve student writing and verbal communication skills,”** National Lilly Conference on College Teaching, May 2024.
- **“Student attention and focus,”** UB Seminar Faculty Development Workshop, September 12, 2023
- **“Exploring emerging technologies: Lifelong learning and success,”** SUNY Empire State College Learning and Innovation Conference, July 10, 2020
- **“Critical Thinking,”** Collegiate Science and Technology Workshop, June 19, 2020
- **“Moving student success online,”** Peer to Peer Clinic online learning communities, Lumen Learning, June 10, 2020
- **“Instruction and Technology,”** CIT 2020 Conference, May 26, 2020
- **“Implementing Lumen into my Class,”** NY Open Education Workshop, April 10, 2020
- **“iSucceed: The First Year Experience,”** OpenEd Conference, September, 2018
- **“Using self-regulated learning methods to increase Native American college student retention,”** National Symposium on Student Retention, October 22, 2012
- **“Critical Thinking and College Students,”** Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program, University at Buffalo, May 23, 2012.
- **“Time management and Critical Thinking,”** Riverside Community College District Leadership Academy, April 20, 2011.

- **“Exam Preparation”**, SUNY Upstate Medical School, March 17, 2011.
- **“Levels of Questions in Learning and Thinking,”** International Conference on Teaching and Learning, Niagara University, January 12, 2011.
- **“Using critical thinking to retain students.”** National Symposium on Student Retention, November 10, 2010
- **“Active Strategies for Learning,”** Erie Community College, January 12, 2010.
- **“Critical Thinking and High School Students,”** High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, Buffalo City School District, October 21, 2009
- **“Critical Thinking and College Students,”** Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Effectiveness Series workshop, March 31, 2009 and January 29, 2008
- **“The use of action research to increase reflective practice for students and instructors,”** National Lilly Conference on College Teaching, November 2007.
- **“Developing Critical Thinkers,”** Monroe Community College, June, 2007
- **“Developing Autonomous Learners: Helping Students Succeed,”** Monroe Community College, June, 2006
- **“Developing Autonomous Learners: Helping Students Succeed,”** SUNY Spring Teaching and Learning Conference May, 2006.
- **“Developing Autonomous Learners: Helping Students Succeed,”** Bryant and Stratton College, May, 2006
- **“Developing Autonomous Learners: Helping Students Succeed”**, SUNY Geneseo Teaching Conference, May, 2006
- **“Providing students tools for success,”** SUNY Geneseo Teaching Conference, May, 2004
- **“Methods of Inquiry: Levels of questions in learning and thinking,** “ New York College Student Learning Association, March, 2004
- **“Study Techniques for College Students Workshop”**, Erie Community College, May, 2002
- **“Combating the Sophomore Slump,”** American College Personnel Association Conference, April 2000
- **“Productive Learning Environments,”** Comparative and International Educational Society Conference, Toronto, Ontario. April 1999
- **“The Global Knowledge Alliance: Utilizing University Knowledge for Global Competitive Advantage.”** Global Knowledge Alliance Orientation, Buffalo, NY, November, 1998
- **“College Transitions Workshop.”** New York State Teacher Training. Syracuse, November 1998

Professional Activities

- Lumen Fellow, Lumen Learning Professional Development, 2025-present
- Teaching and Learning Committee, University at Buffalo, 2021-present
- Mentor, Undergraduate Teaching Initiative, University at Buffalo, 2022-present
- Selection Committee: S.J. Cassata and Mary B. Cassata Department Scholarship, University at Buffalo, 2024-present
- Nomination Review Committee: Celebration of Student Academic Excellence, University at Buffalo 2024-present
- Annual facilitator, CSTEP Summer Research Program, 2012-present
- Dignity for all Students Act (DASA) Coordinator, Buffalo State College, 2013-2018
- Anti-Bullying Teacher Education Initiative, Buffalo State College, 2011-2013
- Worked with Olmstead Buffalo City School to implement a college transition program emphasizing critical thinking skills to high school students, 2008-2009
- Faculty Advisor for the Sophomore House, 2001-2006
- Member of EOP Fipse Grant Planning Committee, 2001-2003
- People to People Delegation Leader, 1997-2001

Service

- President, Orchard Park School Board, 2014-2023
- NYSSBA: Voting Delegate New York State School Boards Association, 2015-2023
- NYSSBA: Legislative Liaison to New York State School Boards Association, 2015-2023
- Board President, Adoption STAR, Buffalo, NY 2008-present
- Board President and coach, Girls on the Run Program, 2010-2022
- Board Member, Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce, 2015-2019
- Chairperson, Shared Decision Making Committee, Orchard Park School District, 2012-2014
- Chairperson, Wellness Committee, Orchard Park School District, 2012-2014
- Chairperson, Kindergarten Screening, Orchard Park School District, 2010-2014
- Board member, University at Buffalo Child Care Center 2003-2006