



As Lead Instructor of Digital Media at Johnston Community College, I have had the pleasure of teaching for 20 years and can attest to the many reasons why working at a community college is great.

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching at a community college is the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people who come from all walks of life. Many of our students face unique challenges that require personalized attention and guidance, such as first-generation college students, adult learners returning to school, and students who struggle with learning differences.

My own personal experience as a community college graduate has helped me understand the importance of providing support and guidance to our students. When I was in high school, my counselor told me that I was not smart enough to attend a university. However, I was fortunate enough to attend a community college where I discovered my passion for digital media and was able to transfer to a university and earn my degree. This experience has shaped my approach to teaching and inspired me to help other students discover their own passions and achieve their goals.

While teaching is never easy, it is always worth it to see the transformation in our students as they gain real-world skills and confidence to go out and make a difference in their communities. As an instructor of digital media, I am constantly challenged to stay up-to-date with the latest technologies and trends, which keeps me engaged and passionate about my work.

However, teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to our classrooms. With the increased use of portable media and virtual communication, many students appear to struggle with interpersonal communication and developing relationships. As instructors, we have had to adapt to new teaching methods and find ways to connect with our students in a more personal way. It has been a difficult time, but I believe that we have all become stronger and more resilient because of it.

Another great aspect of working at a community college is the support we receive as faculty. Our administration values and supports our work, and provides us with the resources we need to be successful in the classroom. Additionally, our colleagues are passionate and dedicated professionals who work together to provide the best possible education for our students.

Community colleges also play an important role in supporting our local economies by providing job training and continuing education opportunities to our communities. Our graduates go on to become skilled workers who are in high demand in fields such as healthcare, technology, and trades. By providing affordable and accessible education.

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#### Author's Note

The author has no known conflicts of interest to disclose. Correspondence concerning this article may be addressed to Ken Robol, Johnston Community College, 245 College Rd, Smithfield, NC 27577 . Email: karobol1@johnstoncc.edu

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