

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

MASTERS CATEGORY



Dr. William Allen

Dr. William Allen is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at East Carolina University. He specializes in organic chemistry and is currently engaged in research on developing new molecules that can promote transport of anions (X-) across cell membranes as an approach to help reduce symptoms associated with cystic fibrosis. Dr. Allen received his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1995. He subsequently held an American Cancer Society Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin and in 1998 joined the faculty of East Carolina University.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, such as the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award at ECU in 2002 and the National Academy of Inventors, to which he was inducted in May 2012, among many others. He has been the coauthor of numerous journal articles and several books as well. His most notable distinction does not rely on understanding the world of chemical reactions but on the positive impact he has had on his students while mentoring them to succeed in the world of science as well as their personal and professional lives.

Letters of recommendation from colleagues and former students note that Dr. Allen epitomizes what a mentor should be—one who pushes his students to grow and excel while at the same time serving as advisor, teacher, colleague, cheerleader, and sounding board.

“Mentoring has to be more than transmitting information. When I think about the people who shaped my own professional development, I’m hard-pressed to remember a single chemical fact or technique that they taught me. I remember, instead, how working with them made me feel valued and confident. I want my research students to know that their ideas and results are important.”

— Dr. William Allen, Chemistry,
Thomas Harriot College of
Arts and Sciences



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Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

DOCTORAL CATEGORY



Dr. Crystal Chambers

Dr. Crystal Chambers has been an associate professor in the College of Education at East Carolina University since 2012. She obtained a Juris Doctor in 1998 from the University of Virginia, School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia, and later in 2003 she received her PhD in education policy and evaluation from the same institution. Dr. Chambers has authored and coauthored numerous publications and edited various books. She is currently the secretary of the Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs, Association for the Study of Higher Education. She holds various honors and awards, including among others the National Women's Studies Association Women of Color Leadership Project Fellow (2010) and the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity Stephanie Camp Memorial Scholarship (2015).

Some of her research interests include race, class, and gender in higher education, as well as critical race feminist theory. She is dedicated to the mentoring of doctoral students, directing them to achieve a higher level of understanding and competency in their fields of study.

Letters of recommendation from colleagues and former students note that Dr. Chambers works tirelessly with students in a dedicated manner that develops their leadership skills and maximizes their learning experience.

"For me, mentoring doctoral students is less like descending from the heavens, imparting a wisdom gained from omniscient insights, and more like engaging students in meaningful dialogues about their academic and career interests, helping them to find the light within themselves and directing them towards resources to support their journeys."

— Dr. Crystal Chambers,
Educational Leadership,
College of Education



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