

City Tech PDAC Part-Time Faculty Teaching Recognition Award (academic year 2024-2025)

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Personal Statement

Teaching at City Tech means a lot to me. My father got his degree at City Tech and both my parents are from Brooklyn. I have been **teaching a sustainability course at City Tech for over 10 years** and it is still just as rewarding as when I started. In my full-time professional life, I am a licensed Architect and a sustainability consultant at Atelier Ten, a leading practice in the field. I have the privilege of working on high profile projects all over the country. Many of my colleagues teach at private institutions. I could do the same, but I am more interested in **paying forward to my community** and helping provide a quality education for the hard-working students of New York City. I continue to be impressed by the work ethic, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity of City Tech students as well as the dedication of the faculty and staff. City Tech students deserve a quality college education and a meaningful degree that helps launch their career, just like the students at private institutions like Columbia. That is what motivates me to return to City Tech each semester.

At City Tech, I teach a sustainability seminar to a multi-disciplinary group of students from architecture, engineering, and construction management programs. My teaching approach is to offer a **fun, participatory, supportive, and trusted classroom environment** where students can feel empowered to form opinions and speak their minds. My motivation is to **inspire the next generation** of design and construction professionals to **be part of the climate solution** in dealing with the current global crisis. I strive to open their eyes to see the world in a different way, one that is more responsible to the Earth and environment and makes them aware of not only the responsibilities but also opportunities for those who design and construct the built environment.

My teaching is **science-based and rooted in professional practice**. I am well versed in climate science and sustainable building design and construction. I freely share this knowledge with my students, giving them the scientific background to understand the changes happening to our world and the **solutions and design strategies** that they can apply in their other classes and, hopefully, their career beyond City Tech.

I try to make the course content not only engaging, but also **accessible, topical, and relevant for New York City**. I integrate new developments and hot topics from the AEC industry that draw upon my professional work. I try to celebrate multi-cultural perspectives through the crucial lens of **environmental justice**, employing City Tech's incredible student diversity as a teaching tool. I encourage my students to share examples from cultures where they have family roots, so that we all learn from each other -- teacher to student, student to student, and student to teacher.

I also try to give my students **practical professional skills** that will serve them well in their careers; for example, public speaking experience and stress-reduction techniques. We do mindful breathing at the beginning of each class to get everyone re-focused and in a learning frame of mind.

Even after the semester is complete, I try to **leave a lasting impression** and help my students along on their career paths. I encourage my students to remain in contact. I have been a mentor and have written numerous recommendations for graduate school and job applications and offered professional guidance, such as resources to prepare for the LEED accreditation exam. I do the same for fellow faculty, serving as a resource for new instructors. Ultimately, my wish for my students is that they are successful, achieve their goals, and be productive professionals and leaders in the AEC industry, while being part of the climate solution. If that happens, they will have **meaningful, rewarding careers** and we, as a society, will all benefit.