



March 19, 2025

Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
401 E. Capitol, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711

Re: 2025 ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award

Dear ICCTA Awards Committee,

The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees is pleased to recommend Donald Leynaud of Peru for the ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award.

Don Leynaud earned his BS and MS in Zoology and Biological Sciences from Eastern Illinois University. He has additional post-graduate study with Illinois State University in Cadaver Anatomy and Dissection, as well as at University of Evansville, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Eastern Illinois University.

Don was a full-time faculty member at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Wabash Valley Campus, from 1980-2013. He has taught numerous courses in biology, zoology, botany, human anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, pharmacology, human anatomy cadaver dissection, and microbiology. Don has been a dedicated adjunct faculty member at IVCC since 2016. He has taught general biology, majors biology, anatomy and physiology and has served as a faculty lab assistant. In addition, he has volunteered in our Adult Basic Education program to support students preparing for the science portion of the exam. Outside of IVCC, Don has served as a lead facilitator for a local mental health peer support group since 2014. He is a tremendous asset to our campus and our community.

The IVCC Board of Trustees wholeheartedly recommends Donald Leynaud for the ICCTA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award

Sincerely,

Everett Solon

Board Chair, Illinois Valley Community College

**Criteria 1: In what ways has this educator created a successful learning environment for students?**

In his nomination for this award, a student noted that Don uses creative and tactical approaches in his classroom that helped her to be successful. She noted that he used coloring packets for lab that we did outside of class as well and that really helped her retain information. Don would visit the Anatomy and Physiology 2 courses to check in on his students from the prior semester. In this student's situation, he helped her get beyond her phobia of the cadaver lab. He worked with her patiently so that she was able to approach the cadaver by the end of the semester and look at the vessels, bones, and organs. This student also shared the support she received from Don related to a mental health situation, in which he worked with her to allow for a retest based on her situation. This was a life-changing support for her.

As an assistant in the Adult Education, Don was a volunteer in the GED classroom for many years with a passion for teaching science. According to Sara Escatel, the Director of Adult Education, "Don's expertise in science brought this subject matter to life in the classroom through lectures, experiments, and challenging activities. Our GED students were engaged and truly embraced his teaching style." In addition, Don was instrumental in helping Adult Education students pass the science portion of the GED tests, which can be a very daunting task for them.

Don has nearly 4 decades of teaching experience and is a tremendous asset to the Biology Department and the students that he serves. From the moment that Don walks into the classroom or lab, he establishes a positive classroom atmosphere where students feel free to ask questions and are inspired to engage in classroom discussion. He demonstrates knowledge in all of the biology courses that the college offers and is able to use the technology that is available to him effectively with his students. He models the IVCC core values of integrity, compassion and respect whole-heartedly and is quick to offer assistance to students who encounter problems with the course material. He has formed many positive relationships with our full-time biology faculty, college staff and student workers and is a highly valued member of our department.

**Criteria 2: What has this educator initiated and helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?**

Don is always updating his approach with students, including learning the new technologies. He has been a long-standing adjunct who is always working to improve. According to recently retired Dean Ron Groleau, what sets Don apart is his constant adapting of his teaching. He said, "Illinois Valley Community College has benefited greatly for the services of Don Leynaud. After retiring from community college teaching, Don

decided to return to IVCC. He has vast experience in introductory and advanced Biology as well as Anatomy and Physiology. He teaches with an enthusiasm and vigor not common with faculty of his many years of experience. Don comes to each class extremely well prepared. Students are engaged in an active learning environment. Don consistently checks for student understanding. He wants his students succeed.”

**Criteria 3: How has this educator participated in the life of the community college?**

Don began his career as an adjunct at IVCC from 1978-1980 before becoming a full-time faculty member at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Wabash Valley Campus, from 1980-2013. He has taught numerous courses in biology, zoology, botany, human anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, pharmacology, human anatomy cadaver dissection, and microbiology. Don has been a dedicated adjunct faculty member at IVCC since 2016. He has taught general biology, majors biology, anatomy and physiology and has served as a faculty lab assistant. This role includes helping set up labs, setting up student sample lab practicals, assisting students who need help in lab courses, and assisting with make-up labs. Don’s support for the lab is essential to the functionality of our lab experience for students. According to LeeAnn Johnson, the lab faculty coordinator, “Don and I have worked together for several years and I have witnessed first-hand how he goes above and beyond to be sure that his students understand the course material. He is quick to step in to cover for a faculty member who is ill and often stays late assisting students and prepping/cleaning up lab materials.” This is indicative of the team player that he has been with the College for so many years. In addition, he has volunteered in our Adult Basic Education program to support students preparing for the science portion of the exams. For over 45 years, his commitment to community colleges has benefitted thousands of students.

**Criteria 4: How has this educator demonstrated a commitment to ongoing professional development activities?**

Don Leynaud earned his BS and MS in Zoology and Biological Sciences from Eastern Illinois University. He has additional post-graduate study with Illinois State University in Cadaver Anatomy and Dissection, as well as at University of Evansville, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Eastern Illinois University. This commitment to furthering his education is a testament to his commitment to improving his knowledge base for his students.

**Criteria 5: What awards or honors has this educator received in recognition of leadership in the college or community?**

His excellence was recognized during his time at IECC, where he was named the Outstanding Transfer Curriculum Instructor of the Year 6 times. We thank you for considering Donald Leynaud for the 2025 Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award. We are incredibly grateful for all of his years of dedication to the College and our students.