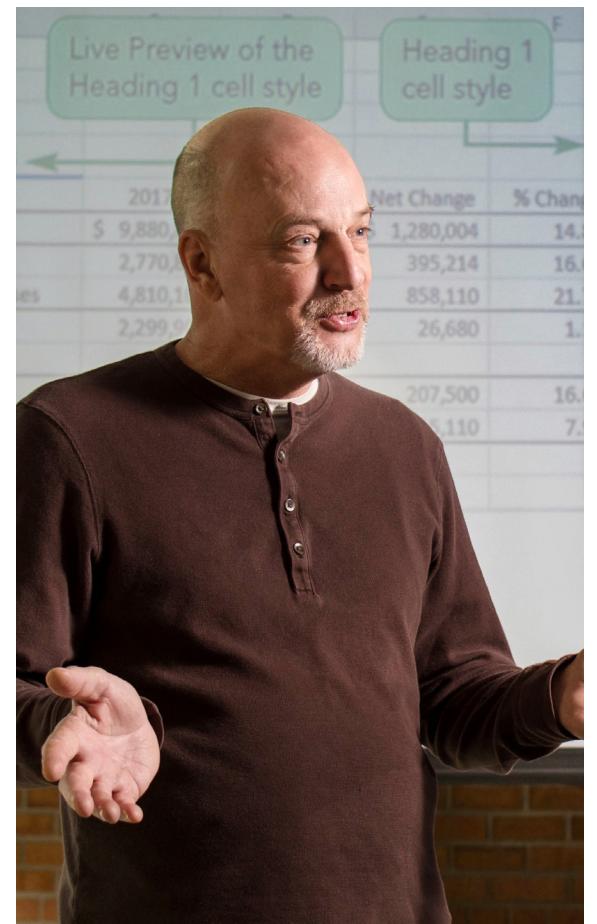




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— Dave Nelson



Dave NELSON

MCC Computer Information Systems (CMIS) instructor brings 33 years of teaching experience to MCC

Dave Nelson helps students build their futures one computer at a time.

Nelson is a part-time Computer Information Systems (CMIS) instructor and a service desk technician at MCC.

“I do a lot of hands-on demonstrations,” he said. “For one activity, students have to build a computer system. Multiple students enjoyed that because they learned more detail on how computers are constructed and what to look for when they purchase a computer. The course material applied to their lives.”

Nelson focuses on ensuring his students understand the software they are using to complete the objectives. He also goes beyond the textbook to cover troubleshooting tips.

“As a teacher, you have the responsibility to show the students why things are important, give them motivation, and to present information and knowledge so they cannot only get through the objectives, but also have an understanding of the material,” he said.

“When students understand the software, it makes life easier,” he added. “My goal is that by the end of the semester, they not only get what’s required of the class done, but they also feel comfortable using the software. We also cover troubleshooting tips, so if they run into trouble later on, they understand how to fix it.”

Sometimes students present real-life computer problems to Nelson and he can help the course material click with the entire class.

“I once had a student who was selling Avon and she was having difficulty with her Access database. She was able to tie her home business to the course curriculum and it really clicked,” he said.

Nelson’s desire to teach started when he was a child. His childhood neighbor was a high school teacher.

“I lived next to Mr. Budge and had him as a teacher, so I knew him in and out of class. I knew he enjoyed teaching and thought I might also,” he said. “As I grew older, I wanted to teach or become a pharmacist. After one year as a pre-pharmacy major at Ferris State University, I decided to go into math and transferred to Central Michigan University. The organic chemistry class at FSU helped make my decision, but then I still chose to minor in chemistry.”

Nelson earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from CMU in 1978, a Master of Science in Education Media Design from Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla., in 2010, and is Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certified. He also owned and operated a home-based computer business for 25 years.

Nelson started his teaching career at Hemlock High School in 1980, taught at Standish-Sterling Central High School for four years and Montabella High School for 27 years.

“After teaching for 33 years, I wanted the flexibility of a part-time job, but I still wanted to teach,” he said. “When a part-time CMIS instructor position at MCC opened in fall 2012, I was able to retire from the K-12 school system. About a year later, a position opened at MCC’s Service Desk.

“A lot of students come into the Service Desk and see me as more than just an instructor,” he added. “Anytime students can relate to an instructor in more ways than just as an instructor, there can be a better two-way understanding between each other and allows for better understanding and communication.”

Nelson resides in Greenville with his wife, Jane. They have two children and three grandchildren.