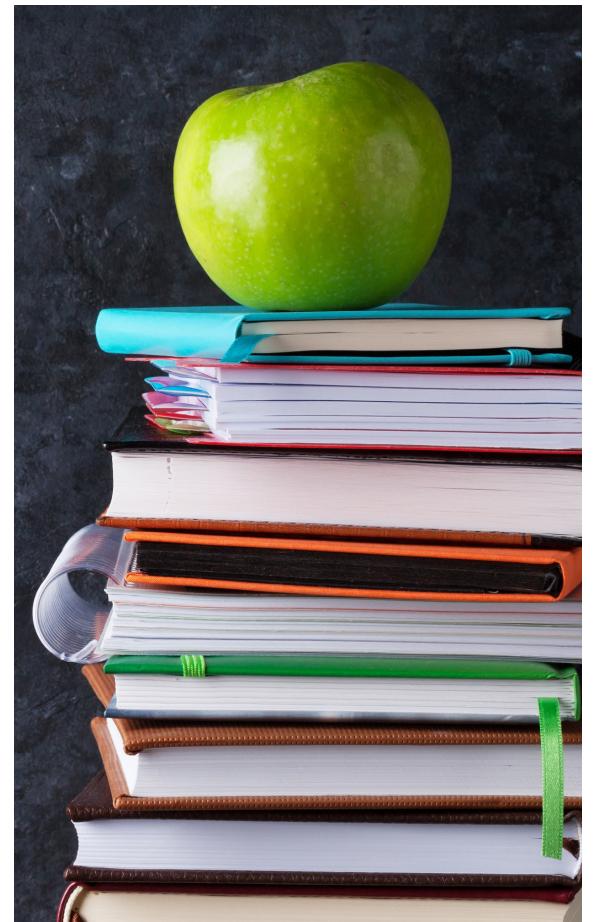




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— Elizabeth Klooster



# Elizabeth KLOOSTER

## MCC Economics Instructor enjoys bringing the principles of economics to life in the classroom

**W**hen Elizabeth Klooster joined Montcalm Community College as a full-time economics instructor last fall, she fulfilled a childhood dream.

“As a child, I saw both of my grandfathers work as professors,” she said. “It impressed me that they worked at colleges and I knew from a young age that was the direction I wanted to go.”

Klooster previously taught economics part-time at Davenport University, Baker College and Muskegon Community College.

“I was very happy teaching part-time before, but when I met the people at MCC, I finally found the place I belonged,” she said. “I found something I didn’t know I was missing and didn’t know I wanted until the interview.”

“At MCC, there’s a sense like everyone is working together to improve the lives of the students,” she added. “Instructors don’t just care for students because it’s their job, but because they are awesome people.”

Klooster teaches a variety of courses, including Customer Relations, Business and Technical Communications, Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Organizational Behavior and Marketing in a Virtual World. She also serves on MCC’s Online Learning Committee and the Assessment Committee.

Klooster finds economics fascinating and enjoys bringing the principles to life in the classroom.

“Economics combines money with the social sciences, so it’s about people and is applicable to everything in life,” she said. “It’s important for students to connect what they learn to the world around them, which can be easy to do when discussing economics.

“It’s more than just theories,” she added. “Economics is interpreting the world we live in.”

Klooster’s goal as an instructor is that her students will enjoy learning and internalize what they learn.

“I want every student to leave my classes with something that will stick with them,” she said. “Something that will change how they see the world.”

Klooster does this by asking her students open-ended questions.

“I prefer to ask before I tell,” she said. “By asking questions, the students engage in discussions together and apply information from the textbooks to something that connects to them, to their personal lives.

“If I end up telling instead of asking, I give my students an opportunity to tell me what they know. We take the time to explore the hard evidence and transfer it to real-life examples to ensure the information clicks,” she added.

Klooster earned a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz., a graduate certificate in applied economics from Georgia Southern University, a Master of Business Administration from Baker Center for Graduate Studies in Flint, a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing from Baker College in Muskegon and an Associate of Science in commercial art from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City.

She resides in Sheridan with her husband of 40 years, John. They have five children and 10 grandchildren.