After reading through the three different kinds of teacher-learner relationships in the textbook, I would say that I would prefer a collegial relationship with my students. This relationship type better lends itself to the topic I teach, which is computer programming.

Students come to community college in order to learn a specific skill. They expect, and employers expect them to be ready to hit the ground running and be able to perform the job that they were hired to do. I was hired because of my experience and expertise in the field. Most of the students who have enrolled in the program I instruct have an interest, and in some cases, experience in this field. It is my job to build on the sharing of experience and expertise.

I establish this kind of relationship by approaching teaching with a student-centered style. I demonstrate, guide, and facilitate and I allow my students to show me what they need from me to help them succeed with a given topic. My students trust me and are comfortable with this teaching style because I make sure to begin each class on a positive note and I maintain a relaxed, yet still professional, atmosphere in my classroom at all times

This works for me because I know my students feel able to approach me when then are having difficulties. They know I care about their success, and as a result, they are eager to put forth their best effort for me.