I remember the day I graduated from NBCC. I remember the feeling. I was very proud to have completed my course and felt that my instructors were too. I was passionate about this discipline back then, and I still am today. Every part of my program was relevant to my professional career; I remembered the lessons I learned and applied them regularly. Throughout my career in my trade, I have had occasion to come back to the college for various reasons: hire students, participate in a program review, or provide technical input to a course. Each time I came back I was met by my former instructors who still remembered my name and greeted me with a smile. I remained very fond of NBCC during my time away and jumped at the chance to be part of the college once again. It is this feeling that I want to instill in my students.

During the course of being a student I had many experiences that shaped my future. I met many characters in industry, experienced a variety of work terms, and was fortunate to receive a number of competing employment offers. I discussed these life decisions with my instructors, not just because of their professional history, but because I trusted them. I felt that I would be guided correctly and I was. I want to develop this level of trust with my students.

My personal teaching philosophy is to demonstrate my passion for the subject and inspire learning. I want to help my students acquire the skills to be safe and successful and to contribute to an industry in a way that is both economically and ecologically responsible. I want my students to have the skills and the courage to challenge assumptions in order to help our discipline progress.

I recognize that not all students will share my passion about my trade. Many of them will enter the classroom and not even truly understand what the discipline is about. I feel that it is up to me to cultivate this passion. I look forward to meeting all of my students and passing along the technical information and the passion for the subject.

To implement my philosophy, I must be balanced in my enthusiasm and demonstrate how theory translates into practical application. To earn the trust of my students, I must first trust them and allow them to take responsibility, whether it is for completing assignments, or operating their station in the lab. I must also look for ways to extend the classroom beyond our discipline and branch out to those related. In my student days we refurbished an old turbine-generator set, installed it on a mounting frame, and sent it to the college in Cuba with whom we had a partnership at the time. This college then used the generator set to make electricity to help power their school kitchen.

We are very fortunate at NBCC that we have a huge store of equipment with which to teach. The equipment is a vital part of our curriculum as it also allows us a way to demonstrate the theory to the students and it allows them to operate the equipment and work towards their license. We can have all the equipment in the world, though; it is how we use it that makes it valuable.

Teaching must be unbiased and honest. It must be done by respecting the students, the college, and the subject. My philosophy is to demonstrate a passion for the subject and to inspire learning. I will aspire to cultivate their knowledge and develop their confidence to face challenges in the workforce. I will trust my students and allow them to be accountable. I will support my students by being there and listening to not only what they say, but what they are trying to say.