



MR. CHRISTOPHER BREITMEYER
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 – Finalist Forum
1:10pm – 2:10pm
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)
Zoom Meeting ID: 891 4517 5557
Passcode: 187957

Chris Breitmeyer has spent his entire career teaching, learning, and collaborating with students, faculty, and staff. He started his career as a high-school biology teacher in Bloomington, Illinois. Following his passion for education he enrolled in graduate school at Arizona State University conducting field research in ecological genetics throughout the deserts of Arizona and Mexico. During this time, he was able to teach classes at Tecnologico de Monterey, in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. While in Mexico, he gained a deep appreciation for both the language and the culture of the country and still has friends there to this day.

At Arizona State he was part of team the received NSF funding through the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant. He was able to serve as a mentor to a member of the Lakota people and as well as members of the Dine' nation. He served as a coordinator for the summer MARC program which brought community college students from underrepresented populations to Mexico for classes and fieldwork. He loved investigating the ecology of the Sonoran Desert and collaborating with his peers until he took a job as a biology faculty member at Yavapai College in Clarkdale, Arizona.

At Yavapai Chris taught numerous biology courses and introductory chemistry. He has always believed the best way to learn something was to do it. Throughout his career he has emphasized active learning, giving students a chance to engage in scientific research that allowed them to apply their knowledge. He created the Verde Valley Science Symposium where community college students presented their research alongside graduate students from regional universities. While at Yavapai, he was active in efforts to involve the community with the college, especially working to promote STEAM to K-12 students and engage in outreach to the Hispanic population in the district. Understanding the importance of connecting the community to the natural world Chris wrote a grant that allowed him to design and construct the Verde Valley Nature Trail that honored the culture and ecosystem of the high desert of Central Arizona.

Being inspired by a wonderful mentor, his Dean at Yavapai, Chris decided to take up the challenge of administration when he moved to Saint Charles Community College in Cottleville, MO serving first as Dean of Math, Science & Health and then as the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. After a successful tenure at Saint Charles Chris was hired as President at Clatsop Community College where he has been part of the CCC family for the past 7 years. At Clatsop Chris has been involved in many college and statewide efforts aimed at cultivating student success, improving workforce readiness, and integrating technology into learning. His work around diversity, equity, and inclusion most recently led to the recognition of the Chinook Nation by the college affording them significant educational benefits. As President he engages with the community and has held statewide leadership positions but considers his primary job to be serving students, staff, and faculty at CCC.