

**Written Testimony
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2011**

The following email was sent to Manchester Community College Associate Professor Lucy Ann Hurston. It is submitted with the graduate's permission.

From: Kristen Hourigan [<mailto:khourigan@albany.edu>]
Sent: Sun 2/27/2011 7:55 PM
To: Hurston, Lucy
Subject: Your inspiration in sociology

Good Evening,

Several years ago (maybe 2002??) I was slowly working toward my associate degree at MCC in liberal arts, unsure of where life would lead, unsure of what path to pursue, unsure of where my interests truly fell. I was a non-traditional student with kids and a dead-end career, but I kept plugging along in school, one class at a time, without ever imagining the path I was upon would lead me to the point at which I find myself today. I took your sociology class and found myself "infected" with the sociology "bug." In your class my interests were piqued, my strengths were encouraged, my work was rewarded, my ideas were accepted, and I received such accolades after a class presentation that I was propelled forward (several years later) to follow a newly-found dream of teaching sociology.

I wish to give to future students of mine the same inspiration and encouragement I was lucky enough to receive while sitting in the third row of your class. I remember hearing your story and thinking that it was so amazing that at that point in your life, when you certainly could have taken your education and gone on to achieve great wealth and acknowledgment, you chose to return to MCC, to your roots, and give back...to teach those of us who found ourselves at a two-year college, getting an education in liberal arts (what does anyone do with an education in liberal arts anyway?). Your class, your passion, your story have all been an inspiration to me.

In a few short months, I will be proud to be finished with all the requirements for my PhD (aside from the dissertation) and be teaching my first class: Sociological Social Psychology at the State University of New York.

I hope that this note brings a smile to your heart and reminds you that the after-shocks of your teaching reach far and wide. Many people will be touched by the ripples spreading across the globe from the stones you throw as you reach out to students each semester and help them to find their dreams, as I have found mine.

So, with this, I say for all those who have come before and those who have yet to set foot in your classroom, "Thank you!"

Sincerely,
Kristen Hourigan