Presidents' Good Steward Award



Dr. Maria Sanders

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Plymouth State University

Building bridges is a mantra for Dr. Maria Sanders. Since coming to Plymouth State in 2013, Maria has become immersed in the community but is also known for revamping the notion that philosophy isn't useful. By focusing on ethics and critical thinking, students at PSU can use philosophy courses in a way they find more relevant by bridging those topics into more mainstream classes such as criminal justice, business and environment. Dr. Sanders integrates Service Learning into her courses enabling students in her courses to find real world uses and positive impacts on community through their learning. Her students take on real world questions, stimulating rigorous thinking of a philosopher in real life experiences. Not only does she engage her students throughout the community, she is immersed in that same community. Maria hosts a weekly radio show on WPCR 91.7 called Philosophy 4 Life in which philosophy is discussed in a public forum. Guests and topics are varied, but provides a forum for practical applications of philosophy in daily life. In addition to advocating for Service Learning in her course, Dr. Sanders is an active participant in the Engaged Learning Council, the Community Gardens Initiative and the Community Conversations happening in the Plymouth community.