



Award for Excellence in Creative Inquiry Instruction

2020-2021

Dr. Julie Stepp

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Julie Stepp is an Associate Professor in the College of Education. She teaches graduate courses within the Department of Curriculum & Instruction, with a concentration on Library Science. Dr. Stepp was selected for the Award for Excellence in Creative Inquiry—Instruction for her exceptional teaching that engages students in the discovery of new knowledge as a part of Tech's Quality Enhancement Plan. She was awarded the EDGE Grant for her course, Young Adult Literature (YAL). YAL is a Library Science and Literacy survey course that encompasses stories told through a variety of genres, formats, and themes – unified by young adult protagonists. Students were tasked with completing two creative inquiry projects for the course. Empowering Stories, the first project, encompasses shared reading, discussion, and content creation in small groups/pairs. Each group researches their book's author, collects supporting resources, and presents their findings in a Pecha Kucha presentation. The YAL Inquiry Project is an independent assignment where students create an argumentative project on the value of a self-selected YA book in regard to representation for a selected group. Students code their primary text and develop themes as they relate to diversity, find resources to strengthen theme formation, and create a product to share what they discovered.