Andria C. Schwortz
aschwertz@qcc.mass.edu
BA Physics & Math (Alfred University)
MS Astronomy (UMass Amherst)
MS Physics (University of Wyoming)
Teaching at QCC: Trig-based physics, Calc-based physics, Astro 101: Earth & Space

"In graduate school at UMass Amherst I had the opportunity to participate in the NSF GK-12 program, where I essentially served as a combination of student teacher and subject matter expert. The UMA version specifically targeted underprivileged and low income schools in both urban and rural environments. That experience convinced me that I wanted to work with students in an underprivileged setting. After completing my Master's, I received a few offers, and picked QCC as a setting where I could do a lot of good, but also could get into the full content of the material."

Michelle Cartagena
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Ph.D. Education (Capella University)
M.Ed. School Leadership & Administration (WSU)
M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction (Concordia University)
M.Ed. Instructional Technology (American Intercontinental University Online)
Teached at QCC: Basic Mathematical Skills, Math Skills for Allied Health Careers, Statistics (Spanish)

"My entry into teaching was at the high school level where I taught classes in chemistry and math. Eventually, I taught only math classes as this was the area of most need. After hearing of positive experiences about teaching and learning at QCC, when I learned in 2009 that they were looking to increase their pool of adjunct math instructors, I applied. I was successful and have been teaching there ever since as a part-time adjunct professor. I love working with this adult group of motivated students. I can identify with them as I was once a college student juggling work, home life and studies for many years. I can appreciate the sacrifices made by our QCC students."

The Worcester/Central Massachusetts ASPIRE Regional Collaborative seeks to develop inclusive and diverse STEM faculty. The planning team is made up of individuals from Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), and Worcester State University (WSU).
"I had the opportunity to teach a Physics class when I was a graduate student at University of Wyoming. And the experience helped me realize I enjoyed teaching, and started on this path. I prefer to teach at the community college level because I was a community college student, and I appreciate the diversity, and the focus on community of the community colleges."

"I took a non-traditional pathway to teach at a community college. Post-undergraduate studies I worked in the industry, specifically in areas related to microbiology. During my third year of medical school, while studying for the board exam I taught part-time as an adjunct faculty at the Community College of Rhode Island. The diverse life experiences of the students I engaged within the classroom, impacted me greatly; it led to the decision to transition to teaching full time once I was provided the opportunity."

"My career started in industry as a consulting engineer, where I worked in the field of water, wastewater, and stormwater. When I graduated with my Master’s there were no postings at QCC (my dream institution), so I rejoined industry and kept my eye out. As my first year was ending as a "Visiting Scholar" at Mass Academy, QCC posted for a FT environmental faculty, and I was blessed to receive the job offer. I have been at QCC for the past 11 years. Teaching at QCC was always my dream because I grew up in the Worcester area and I know what an important role CC’s play in affordable education."