



# Kerry Charron, Ed.D.

## English

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Having grown up 45 miles from the nearest community college in the Hudson Valley area of New York, Dr. Kerry Charron probably never anticipated that she would develop a passion for community colleges, nor that she would become an English professor at the opposite end of the country at Florida Keys Community College.

“After I first graduated from undergrad, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do—to teach or go into social work. I actually did a little of both,” said Charron, who was first introduced to the world of community colleges at Columbia University’s Community College Research Center, where her contributions to a national study of 15 community colleges earned her a student research award. “It really opened my eyes to how important community colleges are to American society and how critical they are to the workforce. I felt like that was where I wanted to slot into higher education.”

Charron has a Doctorate of Education in Higher and Postsecondary Education, masters’ degrees in both Human Relations and English, and a bachelor’s degree in English. Since joining FKCC’s faculty in 2010, she has taught English Composition and Literature courses. Charron proactively tweaks and refines her teaching method to remain fresh, relevant, and stimulating to her students, who range widely and include students of every academic discipline.

“I think teaching English has changed a lot, especially nowadays with media. I try to instill that writing is a habit. If you’re constantly using abbreviations—like you would in a text message—you may not be taken seriously.”

Charron teaches not only the art of composition, but also stresses the importance and power that strong writing skills retain long after graduation.

“You may end up in a field that you don’t think has anything to do with writing—like nursing or marine science—but if you can write, you’ll get special projects



that will enable you to take your expertise and career to the next level.”

Charron is looking forward to extending the opportunity to her students to hear first-hand from some of today’s most acclaimed writers and poets at the Key West Literary Seminar. Fellow English instructor Hillary Parmentier secured tickets for the sold-out annual event to share with their lucky students.

“I hope the exposure to these writers inspires them to take their own writing seriously and motivates them to explore Key West’s literary history,” said Charron, noting how fortunate she is to teach reading and writing in a place so famous for its rich literary ties.

When not teaching, Charron enjoys other perks of living in the Keys with her two-year old son Adam—like the yearlong warm weather and outdoor activities. Their favorite pastimes include exploring different beaches in the Keys and attending cultural events.

“FKCC is a dynamic institution with many unique academic programs and a dedicated faculty and staff. I feel that I lucked out. To do what I love, in a place that I love, in a setting of higher-ed that I love, is phenomenal.”