

ODU Continued Learning Directors Commended by Norfolk Public Schools

Lisa Michele Temple and Fran Puchalski of ODU Programs for Continued Learning were honored on May 14, 2008 for a "Job Well Done" in bringing mentors to the students of Norfolk Public Schools.

They received a commendation of distinction from the School Board of the City of Norfolk for a radio campaign that resulted in hundreds of phone calls from a variety of people who simply wanted to give back.

The campaign came about when Temple met with Regina Davis, Norfolk Public Schools Community Engagement Coordinator, to discuss the possibility of forming a partnership with the Old Dominion University Career Switcher Program. Davis shared stories with Temple about mentor involvement and the lives that are touched as a result of such partnerships.

Temple wanted to unite individuals who were accepted into the ODU program with school aged children who needed career counseling, help with homework or just a concerned listener.

In collaboration with ODU Continued Learning Director Puchalski, Temple launched a commercial radio spot soliciting mentors in January, 2008. Shortly thereafter, Davis reported that the phones were literally ringing off the hook. Davis recommended both Temple and Puchalski for a Commendation of Distinction from Norfolk Public Schools

"In my opinion, this partnership was a win-win opportunity," Temple said. "Our candidates will get to know students on an individual basis and perhaps tear down stereotypes, and the students can talk with someone who comes from a different background. Some of our participants are doctors, lawyers, social workers, as well as some stay-at-home mothers."

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