

Excellence Award Postsecondary



Freyda Sugarman

Computer Aided Drafting and Design

Mott Community College

Nominator: Madonna E. Carpenter, Special Populations Coordinator

A comment about her handwriting by an instructor prompted Freyda to first investigate the CADD Major. Her program prepares students for entry level design and engineering technology positions where the CADD system is used. Although it is a male dominated field, she has proven she can handle the challenge.

When she was little, she loved taking things apart and trying to put them back together. She was curious about everything and how it worked. When her third grade teacher asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, she answered that she wanted to be “Harold” from the children’s book “Harold and the Purple Crayon”. Although everyone laughed at the time, she now feels that she was correct. Harold created a world around him and made it the way he thought it should be. Freyda is determined to create a better world through solving problems with engineering.



Along her journey in this program, Freyda has shared stories about guys in her classes who harass her and how isolating it can be to be the only female in the class. She also had professors offer her “alternative projects”, implying it was because she was a female. Not only did this infuriate her, it pushed her to excel. She has enjoyed seeing a change in her professors’ perceptions as she continuously produced quality work, often exceeding the quality of her male counterparts.

Freyda started a club at Mott Community College for nontraditional students, the *Student Diversity Leadership Society*. This organization holds workshops and events to increase the sense of community between students pursuing a nontraditional career and advocates for nontraditional students.

Ms. Sugarman is a member of the honors program at MCC, the historian and public relations contact for Phi Theta Kappa-Alpha Omicron Iota, and treasurer of the Peer Tutoring Club.

She volunteers at the Science Olympiad High School competition at the college and volunteered to help make blankets for local veterans in the VA hospitals on the National Day of Service. She is

consistently listed on the Dean’s Honors List and is a member of the Mott Campus Clowns, who present anti-bullying programs to K-3rd grade students.

Freyda plans to move to Atlanta, Georgia where she will attend Georgia Tech to pursue mechanical engineering. Her long range goal is to earn a doctorate in mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I *t may seem like a hard road to travel at times, but no one wants to be stuck in a job they hate.*

~ Freyda Sugarman