



WILLIAM S. TENNEY

COLLEGIATE  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR

Professor William S. Tenney believes that teaching is not just about assignments on a syllabus or capstone projects at the end of a course. Rather, teaching is about widening perceptions and fostering self-growth. As he notes, “Outstanding teachers broaden students’ conceptions of their abilities, and enable them to meet and then surpass their educational goals.” Mr. Tenney has been doing just that for more than thirty years, first at the high school level, then as a graduate assistant; and, since 1992, for UMUC.

Mr. Tenney has taught a multitude of math courses, ranging from the introductory to the advanced. He has taken the call wherever asked—zigzagging throughout Germany and then to the Mediterranean, and from the United Arab Emirates to Afghanistan. Professor Tenney has done so with a singular focus on doing what is best for his students and on challenging them to make the most of what they have learned.

He knows that teaching is less about the passing on of information as it is the cultivating of a space to learn, nurture, and grow. For him, teaching is relationship building. At its best, the classroom becomes a gratifying learning environment in which feedback is continual and positive reinforcement is the norm. This is the type of space that Professor Tenney has created, to the betterment of so many of the adult learners he has instructed.

Since 2015, Mr. Tenney has served as the faculty coordinator for math and statistics, directing the efforts of more than forty faculty members. In fact, his impact has extended beyond the classroom to that of almost every student enrolled in these courses. A major scholarly contribution, his open educational resource *Math for Today’s World* has been used by more than 10,000 students.

Professor Tenney holds a BA in Philosophy from Kenyon College and an MS in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In addition, he has served with distinction as an academic coordinator and faculty peer.