The Association of Departments of English presents the Francis Andrew March Award to Sandra Sellers Hanson for Distinguished Service to the Profession of English Studies

Sandra Sellers Hanson is a teacher’s teacher, an administrator’s administrator, and first and foremost an educator of fiercely principled commitment to students and to colleagues. From a major in English, speech, and philosophy at Luther College, she proceeded to her master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and earned her PhD at New York University. But her most formative educational experiences took place in the one-room rural schoolhouse in Clarion, Iowa, she attended from kindergarten through eighth grade. The organizational prowess of those rural Iowa schoolteachers—their work ethic, meticulous planning, and delight in seeing students learn and grow—set a standard for the excellence that distinguishes her work and character. Hired as a part-time adjunct instructor at LaGuardia Community College in 1975, she became a full-time faculty member in 1977. In 1984 she was appointed department chair, a position she held with high distinction until her retirement in 2013. Her unswerving integrity and forcefulness made her known and admired as a teacher who devoted her career to the community college, celebrating and defending it as an institution where all students—diverse in ethnicity, age, class, and nationality—can begin to write their own lives on the rugged palimpsest that is America. ADE is honored to present the Francis Andrew March Award to Sandra Sellers Hanson.

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