

Mary Carol Combs – Erasmus Circle Faculty Fellow



A prominent, internationally recognized scholar of bilingual and ESL education, Professor Mary Carol Combs has been proving her dedication to the college and its students since 2004 when she started as an associate professor of practice.

Throughout her time at the college, Combs has produced 25 publications, presented at 31 conferences, and participated in eight grants totaling more than \$1.4 million. Her scholarship has reached far and wide, influencing not only research conversations about bilingual and ESL education, but also informing the classrooms of prospective and practicing teachers.

Her work goes beyond scholarship, however. As a teacher and mentor, she has served as the chair of doctoral committees for 20 students and as a committee member for another 29 students. This is an extraordinary number of committees and dissertations for her field.

Over the past 15 years, she has taught 27 different courses. At the end of each course, she often receives student feedback with comments such as, “The best professor I’ve had in my master program,” “She is a treasure to the College of Education,” and “This course has truly enriched my life as a student and instructor.”

Through her commitment to both her students and the field of bilingual and ESL education, her actions uniquely capture the legacy of Erasmus. As a humanistic scholar and teacher, Erasmus ignored titles and accolades and was instead committed to scholarship and action that celebrated individual liberty and railed against corruption. This is the path of Professor Combs and her incessant fight for the rights of English language learners.