

[JENNIFER BILLMAN appears on screen looking into the camera. Her name and title appear at the bottom of the screen, Jennifer Billman, Ph.D., HACC Biology Professor.]

JENNIFER BILLMAN:

One of the key characteristics to success in the sciences is creativity – the ability to look at the natural world around you and see something anew.

[CHRISTINE MUMMERT appears on screen looking into the camera. Her name and title appear at the bottom of the screen: Christine Mummert, Ph.D., HACC Biology Professor.]

CHRISTINE MUMMERT:

Once I graduated from Messiah College with a bachelor's in science in Biology and Chemistry, I decided to work in a lab as a laboratory research assistant, and I really enjoyed having to solve problems. I think that's one of the things that attracted to me to science in the first place, that I was inquisitive and I wanted to know how things worked. Those are the kind of things that drove me then to pursue my doctorate at Penn State at Hershey Medical Center.

[BILLMAN returns to the screen.]

BILLMAN:

A lot of students enter biology because they love being outdoors, they love going on hikes, they love nature and they just want to pursue a career that is filled with nature. They may not be aware of the rigors of field research and that ultimately field research always come back into a lab. So, trying to provide students kind of a realistic expectation of what a career in biology is and what they may be expected to do at different points in their career.

[MUMMERT returns to the screen.]

MUMMERT:

Most of the faculty have their master's and their doctorates and so they are really equipped to teach you. Also, the class sizes are really small and that really allows faculty to focus on the student and have the class to be student centered.

[BILLMAN returns to the screen.]

BILLMAN:

A lot of our labs are, obviously they're all hands-on experiences. Some of them are exploratory in that students are exploring elements of nature, so whether that be microscopically or through specimens, so examinations of specimens, so that's a little bit more exploratory not experimental. Some of our labs are experimental though, where students are proposing questions. You know, we start with a scenario, they propose a question, they propose a hypothesis, we do an experimental design and then we go through all the steps of the scientific method with them even up to report writing and presentation.

[MUMMERT returns to the screen.]

MUMMERT:

I often get letters and emails from students that have left my classes. In fact, I recently received an email from a student who just graduated with her masters in forensic science. She did spectacular in her studies, and the fact that she wanted to acknowledge that being in my class had really motivated her to pursue that career, and that she often remembers how challenging I made the class for her but how exciting I made it as well, that she was so engaged really gave her the motivation to succeed.

[Screen fades to red with the HACC logo at the top and “Academically YOURS.” in the bottom right corner. The text, “Make a world of difference. hacc.edu/Biology.” appears in the middle of the screen.]