



2025

RESILIENCE & RETENTION CONFERENCE



David Funk

Director,
Honors Program
Tyler Junior College

Dave has been the Director of the Honors Program at TJC for about 10 years. Annually, the program has between 250-300 students. Honors has demonstrated some success in taking care of their students and student success metrics, but Dave still wonders if he's good at his job. Dave holds an MFA in Studio Art/Ceramics from Utah State University and spent years teaching pottery Houston, Snyder and now Tyler. Dave thinks it's possible his career in honors can be best summarized by Professor Snape: "Of course, it became apparent to me very quickly that he had no extraordinary talent at all. He has fought his way out of a number of tight corners by a simple combination of sheer luck and more talented friends. He is mediocre to the last degree."

Dave has presented on honors education several times at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference, generally on developing relationships between 2 and 4-year institutions. He was also recently invited to speak at the Region 7 Counselor Academy. One of his great academic achievements was recruiting his co-presenter, Dr. Andrea Hathcote, into the honors program. He participates in fundraising and involvement events for students on campus including the Employee Campaign and "Souper Bowl," a benefit for a campus food pantry.

Dave will always have a soft spot for Lubbock and Texas Tech University, because his son was born at University Medical Center in 2008. He is married to his best friend Christie Funk, and they recently celebrated their 25th anniversary.

