

## Montcalm Community College Faculty Bio: Chad Walden, M.A.

**Chad Walden, M.A.** is a full-time Language Arts Instructor at Montcalm Community College. He believes all students can grow if they are willing to push through adversity when it inevitably comes.

One of his favorite parts of teaching is when he sees a student dive into a challenging task, push through the difficulty, and emerge with increased confidence and a hard-won sense of accomplishment.

Chad began his college experience as an MCC student in 1994 before transferring to Central Michigan University, where he completed his bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in English Language and Literature. After 15 years of teaching high school English at Central Montcalm and Fulton, Chad joined MCC's full-time faculty in 2014. At MCC, he has taught a variety of communication and English courses. In addition to teaching composition and literature courses, Chad is the coordinator of the MCC Writing Center, which assists students with a variety of writing assignments.

Chad is passionate about helping students develop skills that will empower them. Reading and thinking critically, sifting through, and evaluating the vast amounts of information encountered daily, sharing ideas through effective writing and speaking, building and critiquing arguments with empathy — these skills and habits are crucial to long-term flourishing as individuals and as a society. Chad believes when these skills are mastered, people gain the power to pursue and achieve their goals, improve the quality of their lives, and leave the world better than they found it.

Chad is married and has one son and two daughters. They also have a dog, two outdoor cats, a painted turtle, and a panoply of tropical fish. If Chad wasn't a teacher, he would enjoy being a sportswriter, marine biologist, or a record/book/guitar/aquarium store owner. Sometime in the future, Chad and his daughter hope to cage dive with sharks.

### **Chad shares some facts about himself:**

- My childhood hero, Detroit Pistons legend Isiah Thomas, once sat down next to me in a locker room and asked if he could borrow soap.
- I am the founding member of the Rainbow Lake Polar Bear Club.
- My mom taught at MCC for 30-plus years, and I can remember running around the halls of the Smith Building when I was in preschool.
- While in Long Island for a work conference, I once took a taxi to perhaps the most famous haunted house in America. (I didn't get any closer than the sidewalk.)
- Shark Week and March Madness are annual holidays in the Walden household.