

LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY
2026 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



April Sikorski '01, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English
Massachusetts Bay (MassBay)
Community College

April Sikorski, Ph.D. (they/them) is an Associate Professor of English and coordinator of corequisite writing courses at MassBay Community College in Massachusetts. They earned their bachelor's degree in English from La Roche University in 2001, a foundation that set the trajectory for a career spent helping writers find their voices. They

went on to earn a master's degree in composition, literacy, and pedagogy from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in composition and rhetoric from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Now in their 23rd year of teaching, Dr. Sikorski began their path in writing instruction at La Roche, where they worked as an undergraduate consultant in the Writing Center.

In 2015, they became the founding director of the Writing Center at Brazosport College. Over the following decade, they created and chaired the Gulf Coast Student Success Conference for four years, providing their writing center consultants with opportunities to conduct research. Their sustained work helped professionalize the Brazosport College Writing Center, which received recognition from the Southeast Writing Center Association in 2022. These achievements trace back to the mentorship and hands-on training Dr. Sikorski first received as a La Roche undergraduate.

"Beyond my work in writing centers, I'm deeply committed to supporting LGBTQIA+ students. In both Ohio and Texas, I mentored Gender & Sexuality Alliances and founded Safe Zone Training Programs designed to create opportunities for student leadership and campus education, they said."

One initiative, the Walk Through LGBTQIA+ History, invited Gender & Sexuality Alliance members to research and create posters telling the story of an LGBTQIA+ person, place, or event.

As a first-generation college student, Dr. Sikorski chose La Roche in part because staying close to home was important to them and their family. A generous financial aid package and scholarship allowed them to live on campus and experience residential college life.

Three La Roche mentors were especially influential in Dr. Sikorski's development as a scholar and educator: Dr. Linda Jordan, Dr. Christine Abbott, and Sister Rita Yeasted. Together, these mentors provided the pedagogical grounding, intellectual community, and cultural curiosity that would come to define their career in writing instruction and student mentorship.

"I have attended several schools throughout my educational journey, but I am most proud of my time and education at La Roche. Being inducted into the La Roche University Distinguished Alumni Circle is incredibly special because my time at La Roche was so foundational to my life."

Dr. Sikorski lives in Massachusetts with their dog, Arthur.