

Professor Sally Keely's Biography

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Here are some quick facts about my professional and personal background:

- Moved around a lot as a child. I changed schools often and much of my learning was done independently (in a VW bus crisscrossing N. America, living on a sailboat for a couple of years, even traveling by transcontinental train for months). I tell you this so you know that I do understand the self-motivation that is necessary to learn in a non-traditional environment such as the one in which you are about to embark.
- Left High School early to attend UC Santa Barbara. Majored in mechanical engineering, computer programming, and developmental psychology before earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics from Portland State University.
- Started teaching at Mt Hood CC just before my 20th birthday. First tenured position was at Pierce College in Puyallup WA. Came to Clark College in 1996, tenured in 1999. Taught part-time at the Univ. of Phoenix Online since 2002. Have taught college mathematics for over 35 years.
- Created the Clark College online mathematics program in 1999. Within a decade it had grown to about 20 different math courses available online and 15 dedicated online math faculty.
- Earned a C.O.I. (Certified Online Instructor) in 2005. Authored a series of algebra ebooks called [GOLDen Mathematics](#) in 2006. Became a [Quality Matters](#) certified Online Course Peer Reviewer in 2012.
- Developed the first-ever-in-the-northwest full-online Calculus I-II-III for STEM courses in 2009. Have now taught over 300 online math classes!

I currently serve on the executive board (as webmaster) of the non-profit organization [Washington Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges \(WAMATYC\)](#) and I am active in the [NoMethanol360.com](#) campaign, a group of local citizens working to stop the world's largest fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery and export terminal proposed for southwest Washington. I also advocate for persons exposed to [diethylstilbestrol \(DES\)](#) and volunteered with [DES Action](#) for many years.

On a personal note, I was born in New York City, the first American in my family, and hold dual citizenship with Canada. My parents emigrated from England. My father was a theatrical actor and artistic director (plus you may have seen him on TV in some old sitcoms or movies).

I live in Kalama, a small town along the Columbia River in Washington state, on five acres at 2200 feet with my husband, teen daughter, and our Blue Heeler / McNab puppy. My SAHD husband and I home-educated our daughter who is now attending college as a running start student. I am an avid walker (often on the treadmill while teaching my online classes), vegetarian, H₂O addict, active in ecological protection and progressive political issues, enjoy web design, coding, reading, hiking, camping, and travel.

I love math! It is fun, exciting, aesthetically beautiful, and intriguingly vital. Thinking mathematically helps you to analyze and solve problems in an organized logical manner. I hope through this course you will improve your critical thinking skills and appreciate the usefulness of mathematics in your own life and career. My role is to facilitate your learning through guided discovery activities in a challenging meaningful supportive atmosphere. This is in line with my teaching motto, "*I am not here to teach at you, I am here to help you learn.*" (Full [educational philosophy](#).)

