

Results Highlights

SHANNON MARKS, MSPH



At the outset of the pandemic, ACT, Inc.'s researchers predicted that school closures would trigger a double summer slump, creating over six months of learning loss and decreasing average ACT scores by as much as 0.7 points. Research based on state assessments is now showing that those estimates may have been conservative.

It's in this context that MasteryPrep celebrates our instructors who have gone above and beyond to help students make exemplary ACT score gains during this difficult time.



"I was the first generation in my family to attend college and was once a student just like the ones I teach, and somebody believed in me, therefore, I am paying it forward."



Shannon Marks, MSPH is a proud member of ACT MasteryPrep Team since 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and later received her master's degree in Public Health from Southern New Hampshire (Online). When she's not in the classroom, she can be found spending time with her husband and son, reading thriller novels, cooking, and being an active member of community organizations.

Shannon recently led ACT Mastery one-semester classes at Jeanerette and Westgate High Schools in Iberia Parish, Louisiana.

"My teaching philosophy is very simple: students do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. When teaching at a Title 1 high school, caring is what they need first. After they know I care, then they open up their heart and mind so I can teach them. I show my caring by forming relationships with my students and trying to help them find their dreams and strengths so they can believe in themselves the way I believe in them. They are the future and have unlimited value."

Results Highlights

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Jeanerette High School

Jeanerette High School serves around 409 students. 72% of students come from an economically disadvantaged background, 88% belong to a racial minority, and 75.2% qualify for a free or reduced lunch.

After participating in the ACT Mastery curriculum, students on average went from a 12.5 pre-test score to a 17- that's a 4.5 average score increase!

72%

students come from an economically disadvantaged background

75.2%

students eligible for free or reduced lunch

88%

belong to racial or ethnic minorities

Westgate High School

Westgate High School serves around 1,090 students. 75% of students come from an economically disadvantaged background, 66% belong to a racial minority, and 75% qualify for a free or reduced lunch.

The class improved from a 16.6 pre-test to an 18.2 post-test after attending the ACT Mastery curriculum led by Shannon Marks. What amazing results!

Congrats to the students at Jeanerette and Westgate High School for all of their hard work in improving their scores!

75%

students come from an economically disadvantaged background

75%

students eligible for free or reduced lunch

66%

belong to racial or ethnic minorities

We asked Shannon what she believes the key to success is when helping students boost their scores. Here's what she said.

"They need to know you're not there like a job, you're there as a human and want them to succeed. It's all about building relationships with them. Remembering birthdays... it's all about the little things that you notice. It's all about a relationship. They will not trust you if you don't build the relationship. I tell them how much I believe in the product, which goes back to them trusting me, so it's important to share your confidence. If you show you trust it.,they will too."

Thank you, Shannon, for your dedication and passion to educating students in under-served areas. It is because of you that so many students have learned to believe in themselves and achieve all that they can.