

Dr. Lauder feature
Megan Henderson

As Emory & Henry is beginning to structure Project Ampersand, a hands-on learning opportunity for students to take a problem and find a solution using their education and time at E&H, Dr. Tracy Lauder has been selected to coordinate Project Ampersand, creating a new position on E&H's campus.

Lauder's job will officially start in January and continue through the 2015-2016 academic school year, though her work has already begun. Lauder was one of four faculty members on the President's Strategic Planning Overlay Committee last year which helped exemplify what E&H is as a higher education institution, and became the place from which Project Ampersand grew.

Lauder became a teacher because of a passion in helping people reach their full potential, but she also believes that institutions should reach their full potential as well. Deciding to continue work on Project Ampersand including administrative tasks and organizing small working groups was something Lauder decided to do because of her passion in pushing everyone to that potential.

"What intrigues me about this job is that it's a way that I can help take what we [E&H] already do and help us reach that new level, and in the meantime I'm helping students and faculty do the good work they like to do, or as I've told somebody, I just want to help cool people do cool stuff." Lauder said.

Project Ampersand will be creating project advisers through the faculty to help students counsel and connect students with the right classes, faculty and places on campus that can help the students do the work they are aspiring to complete. The Project is providing Lauder the

opportunity to work with a large variety of people across campus including students as well as faculty.

“The staff and faculty here are so creative and so hardworking and have some really great ideas and accomplishments that not everybody knows about,” Lauder said. “I’m looking forward for the opportunity to really help them do more and showcase what they do accomplish.”

Currently Lauder and Vice President and Dean of Faculty Dave Haney are organizing small working groups of faculty to take pieces of Project Ampersand and put them together. Two teams will attend summer intensive conferences to help focus in on the work constructing a structure for Project Ampersand.

“I’m going to have a very busy next semester. I’m going to be in a lot of meetings and have a lot of conversations, but that’s okay because I like working with people and ... getting things organized, I think right now that’s the next step,” Lauder said.

Lauder believes the vision for E&H is to be known for Project Ampersand so that people know they can attend E&H and focus on doing the work they want to do in the world while receiving faculty mentorship and support from the curriculum.

“We [E&H] do all that already, but we’re just going to elevate that to another level, because some people don’t know that’s what we do here, and they need to know that,” Lauder said.