Professor Connie O’Neill began teaching at Sinclair Community College in 1973 in the Secretarial Science department and retired in 2005. In the 1980s, the department began to change as the use of word processors and personal computers in the office environment became more prevalent. This meant a significant change in the curricula and in the skills set of all Secretarial Science faculty members. The department adapted and became Office Information Systems, and the curricula began to reflect a new focus on word processing and spreadsheet software.

In the late 1990s, the exponential growth of the Internet significantly changed the way office work was performed, with new ways to perform research, acquire information and to communicate. Office Information Systems became Business Information Systems. Changes in technology meant more change for faculty members as they acquired the necessary skills to teach from the introductory to the expert level of software applications, and to embed the technology into other courses in the curricula.

Connie has served on most college-wide committees over her 30+ years of service to Sinclair. Some of her contributions include serving on the General Education Committee where she worked to establish computer literacy standards for all Sinclair students and possible assessment/evaluation measurement tools to determine student computer readiness. This same committee established general education outcomes that could be included in all courses taught on campus, and Connie championed those outcomes with the Business Information Systems department, its advisory committees, and to the Business Technologies Division through presentations and roundtable discussions. Connie also served for several recent years on the Distance Learning Committee.

Professor O’Neill was instrumental in the creation of several new courses that reflected the rapidly changing office environment, and was also the course coordinator of many classes. She was part of the team that won Innovator of the Year for the BIS department for their work creating modularized courses that could be taken separately or in combination to suit students’ needs.

Professor O’Neill was the perfect model of professional behavior in the classroom. Her excitement for the subject matter was obvious, and her enthusiasm contagious.