

Mission Moment



Dr. Ahmed Lakhani **Professor in Chemistry**

Dr Lakhani was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and moved to the United States at age seven. He received his Ph.D. from University of Illinois at Chicago. He now lives in Glenview, Illinois. He has been teaching chemistry at Calumet College for twelve years. He is also Chairperson, Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

As I reflect on my 12 years as a chemistry faculty member at Calumet College of St. Joseph, I'm reminded of how special this place truly is. CCSJ is a small college, but it's deeply family-oriented. We don't just teach—we get to know our students, their stories, their struggles, and their dreams. Many of our students are first-generation college-students, often underprepared—especially when it comes to science—and many of them work full-time while attending classes. But what they all share is a strong desire to go somewhere, to achieve something greater. We're here to support them every step of the way!

I've had many moments where I've gone out of my way to help a student. It's just what we do here. But one moment in particular has stayed with me. A couple of years ago, I had a student in my chemistry class who had taken the course multiple times at other colleges but just couldn't pass. When he came to me, he still struggled. The material didn't come easy. But I worked closely with him—during office hours and outside of them. Slowly, he started making progress. By the end of the semester, he passed.

After the final exam, he came to my office with tears in his eyes. He gave me a big hug and said thank you. That hug brought tears to my eyes. I knew I had helped change his life. At a larger college, he might have dropped out and never finished. But at CCSJ, we had the chance to lift him up and help him believe in himself.

Teaching is my passion. Working with students is my passion. Helping them grow, succeed, and believe in their own potential—that's where I find joy in life. This is why I'm here at CCSJ. And every time I see a student walk down the graduation aisle, I feel proud knowing I played a small part in their journey. That's the heart of our mission at CCSJ.