



Nancy McClelland

This month, we are featuring [Nancy McClelland](#)! She is our very first AECPCertified Educator. Her projects are full of cool and awesome techniques, featuring lots of texture and dimension. Let's learn more about her!

1. How was your overall experience in the program?

I first started investigating the [Altenew Academy](#) classes and looking around the Altenew website back in late 2017. I stumbled across the [AECPCertified opportunity](#) and decided it would be an interesting challenge so I applied. I received my acceptance notification around February 2018. Honestly, I had no idea where it would lead or what was in store for me, but I found the classes to be very informative and of great value. I would finish one section and couldn't wait to start the next. With every project I've submitted, I received encouraging comments from Virginia and visitors to my blog. Before I knew it, Level 3 was upon me and I was ready to take my final exam.

2. Can you give any words of encouragement for current and future participants?

Enjoy the process/classes and don't be too critical of your work. Sometimes we want to have all the supplies and are envious of others but some of my best works were clean and simple. I will admit that some sections were refreshers for me, but they also helped me come up with new ideas and techniques.

3. What motivated you to start making cards and begin stamping?

Having an Interior Design degree, I've always been involved with art in some way. As with many people, I was introduced through Stampin' Up! After some time away from work due to health issues, I was afforded the opportunity to craft full-time. Card making excited me and a few years later, I started teaching at my local scrapbook store. Fast forward to 12 years later, I continue to embrace new processes and I love teaching others.

4. How did you fall in love with Altenew?

The look of layered floral stamps and the fact that the ink sets have been designed to make stamping foolproof are what attracted me to Altenew. The more I played with the sets the more I fell in love. Altenew also has a fabulous variety of products with [dies](#), [Artist Markers](#), [stencils](#), and [scrapbook supplies](#). I continue to be amazed with each new release.

5. You have so many great project ideas! Where do you get all those inspirations? Share your process with us.

I believe that years of crafting contribute to ideas for projects. Social media today is everywhere and I will look around occasionally for inspiration. About every 3 months, I spend a day in my craft room going through my supplies/stash. Having way too many supplies that I haven't touched for months, this helps me purge items and also pull stamp sets out to make projects. I find that I will pick a process or a medium, like alcohol markers, watercolors, ink blending, die cutting, and then I focus on that medium for a week or so. I personally believe that I need to select several styles and mediums that I love and focus my efforts in that direction. I want to enjoy crafting, not feel like I have to be polished in all styles. That's one reason I have embraced the [Altenew Educator Certification Program](#).

6. Do you have a specific style that you are comfortable with or like to stick to?

I teach Copic Marker classes locally so that's very comfortable for me. I love learning new techniques and, with this AACP experience, I've fallen in love with layered stamping. When making a card I always try and add layers and dimension. I achieve that with backgrounds and lots of foam tape!

7. Can you share a favorite card you made previously using Altenew products?

I have several cards that I made during my AECF assignments that I absolutely love, but I would probably have to say my favorites are the ones I designed for my final classroom/workshop challenge. Here's one using the Altenew [Peony Bouquet Stamp Set](#).

