

Rhonda Cobham-Sander

Emily C. Jordan Folger Professor of Black Studies and English

Summing up the feelings of many, one of Rhonda's students wrote that Professor Cobham-Sander "has a way of making her students think critically and passionately about the material she's teaching that feels natural—like they are unlocking a superpower they never knew they had before." The committee was impressed with Rhonda's commitment to furthering Amherst students' intellectual and personal growth inside and outside the classroom; with the mentorship, care, and support that she extends so generously; and with her extraordinary service to the Amherst community. Notably, Rhonda's commitment to pedagogical experimentation, innovation, and growth has spanned her long career at the college—most recently in courses such as "Digital Africas" and "Panama Silver, Asian Gold," in which she integrates digital-humanities approaches into the study of Caribbean and African literature—transforming the curriculum and demonstrating to all who know her, superpowers of her own!