

October 9th, 2017

Dear Board of Education members,

This month I asked our members to share stories of accomplishment and inspiration, and as usual, several part-time faculty did not disappoint. With such a large and diverse group of people I am proud to call my colleagues, it was difficult to pick just one story to showcase, and so I decided to share two of these stories with you.

Story of Accomplishment

Jenn Kepka, a part-time faculty member in the English and Writing departments, was chosen as an Open Education Group fellow this year and will be attending and presenting at the OpenEd conference in Anaheim in the month of October. The Open Education Group is an interdisciplinary group of people based at Brigham Young University who are passionate about improving education, and Jenn's fellowship will conduct research on the impact of Open Educational Resources on the cost of education, student success outcomes, patterns of usage, and perceptions of OERs. She joins over two dozen faculty from across the country in this endeavor. As you well know, the OER movement is in full force across the LBCC campus, and we are excited to hear how her fellowship progresses.

Story of Inspiration

I have recently had the pleasure of meeting Keith Tierney, a part-time faculty member in the Business Management department. Among the many talents that I learned that Keith possesses, he shared with me how he spends his time away from LBCC. Keith is the director of a non-profit organization that fights for the civil rights of seniors and visits assisted living facilities to provide presentations on current topics seniors are interested in. Last month for example, he gave presentations on dementia, single payer, and living wills or physician directives. He also is currently involved in four foreclosure mediations representing seniors who are at risk of losing their homes to banks. Senior citizens are a particularly vulnerable part of our society, and I am truly inspired by Keith's dedication to such a worthy cause.

Both of these stories truly epitomize the spirit of our part-time faculty and demonstrate why not only are we an invaluable part of Linn-Benton Community College, but also to our community, state, and nation. I am so proud to stand for and represent such amazing people.

Sincerely,
Miranda Dudzik
PTFA President