John McCullough

Video Captions

[Hello John.] Hi. [Please introduce yourself.] I'm John McCullough. I am Chair of the Business and Information Systems Department here at ENMU-Ruidoso. I am also a Professor of Business and teach just about all of the Business classes that we have to offer.

[Ok. And how long have you been at ENMU-Ruidoso?] Back in 1991 when I moved up here from my home town of Roswell, it was to take the job as controller of the Inn of the Mountain Gods. That perfectly coincided with when this school started; that very fall semester, so I was the first part-time accounting teacher that was hired here at the college. So since then, I have kept a relationship as a part-time instructor; were some gaps when I did some community ed classes but even when I moved back to Roswell, I commuted some to teach these classes at night. My association with ENMU-Ruidoso, in one form or another, has been a little over 27 years, with the last 10 of it being as a full-time business instructor.

[Ok. What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?] I think I learned this back when I first started teaching I was in my home town; had a family, three kids and was working as the controller of a small oil and gas company I became aware that through ENMU-Roswell, I could work toward an MBA, that it was from Portales, but it could be done through there, so I was very tempted but like many of our students, I wasn't sure if I could handle it, if I had the money, if I had the time, juggling everything else. But then I had probably one of the best ideas I've ever had in my life. I went to my boss at that oil and gas company and told him that I was very interested in working toward my masters. And I said "How about this? I will pay the tuition, books, everything at the start of the semester but if I come to you at the end of that semester and give you my report card and if I made an A, will you reimburse me?" and he said yes. So I, he was getting a little something and I was making a commitment and he was pro-education, so that's one of those moments that I, 'life-changing' might be a little bit strong, but it certainly altered my life. So I did that and it was there that I really developed my appreciation for Community College. The accessibility, being there in your town for a non-traditional that has roots; can't move away, and this was before online classes so that wasn't even an option. But since then I've learned that many of our students don't have that clear path of where they want to go; what they want to do; how they're going to afford it; can they do it. I learned that the community college offers them the most affordable, the least stressful, the best relationship so that it certainly enforced my commitment to what we do at the Community College. But I got that masters and toward the end of it when I was about the graduate, I guess I had done enough to impress my marketing teacher who was also the Chair of the Business Department at ENMU-Roswell, and he asked me if I'd be interested in teaching an Accounting class. So that really is where I started teaching at the community college level at the Roswell campus So I did that for many years until now back to 1991 when I moved up here and started teaching.

I have always enjoyed the Accounting class because it is much like a 'clean slate'; not too many people know the language of accounting, so we're starting from scratch and it's just very rewarding to see that students have gotten from nothing to understanding the language and then hopefully going on for other other business classes.

[Very good. What else would you like your students to know about you?] I have told some of my students in classes that I know what it's like to be a good student and what it's like to be a bad student because I have been both. And I know the habits of both types of students because I've developed them and I've also learned that it isn't so much a matter of 'smart'; it's being focused, knowing what you want and committed to doing it, working on these habits to where going to class is not an option, it's just taken for granted and that you're going to immerse yourself and put everything into it So my time as a student both again, when I wasn't such a great one and when I did very well, that's driven that home that not so much 'smart' but just focused and finally latching on to what you want to do and going for it.

[Ok, well thank you very much, John.] You're very welcome.