

Self Biography for Jeff Stomper

I began my journey in higher education almost by accident, taking my first college course as a high school junior at my local community college. It was an important opportunity at an important time for me as I was filled with self-doubt about my academic abilities and value as “college material.” My success in that first course enabled me to leave for Northern Illinois University with a new confidence allowing me to earn a Bachelor’s degree in anthropology followed by Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from Yale University.

As a freshman in college I was given the rare opportunity to begin doing archaeological fieldwork in Copan, Honduras. This was another significant moment in my life that launched me on a journey of exploration and discovery (both scientific and self). Living and working for months at a time in a foreign country gave me a new perspective on my place in and on my ability to impact my world. I was fortunate to spend over 15 years conducting archaeological and anthropological fieldwork while experiencing the rich culture of Honduras, Belize and other Central American countries.

I currently serve as Interim Assistant Vice President for Educational Affairs for the College of Lake County, located in the northern suburbs of Chicago. As Assistant Vice President, I lead the College’s efforts in program development, program evaluation and improvement, the career and technical education programs, and the College’s Workforce and Professional Development Institute. During my 20 year association with the CLC I have held a number of other positions including adjunct faculty, academic advisor, full-time faculty, and several dean positions.

I remain an active faculty member and teach a variety of anthropology classes both online and in a traditional classroom setting. It is important for me as an administrator to maintain the connection to both my academic discipline and to students through my time in the classroom and outside of it. In addition to teaching I also mentor students in our Men of Vision program and our Promise program.

I have been fortunate to participate in a number of formal professional development programs, serve in leadership positions in national organizations, and conduct research on student success. Over the years I completed the Management Development Program (MDP) at the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education, the Chair Academy’s Foundation Leadership Academy, and the University of Michigan’s Consortium for Community College Development Strategic Initiatives Program. I serve as a board member on the National Council of Instructional Administrators and the National Social Science Association. Recently I have been researching completion and success initiatives in online classes.

In my time away from work I enjoy a number of activities in and around my community. I have had a life-long passion for all things golf and enjoy other outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, tennis, and gardening. I also spend time working with hearing impaired adults and helping them understand and adjust to wearing hearing aids. As a voracious reader, I enjoy reading for both learning and pleasure.