Students' Motivation Inspires Admissions Counselor In Bridgeport Program

“So many students come back for different reasons. It’s inspiring to see what motivates them. Whether it’s a career change, their kids are older or they’re starting college for the first time, it’s great to see them returning to school for their education.”

Liptak said most students in the IDEAL Program -- which is for adults age 23 and up -- are motivated to continue their education. “They’re ready to get going,” Liptak said. “It’s great to see that enthusiasm.”

Some students, however, are cautious about making the commitment. That’s where Liptak has to explore the student’s motivation.

“It’s something we don’t take lightly,” Liptak said. “We want to make sure they feel comfortable. We’ll have an admissions meeting and it just opens up the conversation and we’re able to explore what their academic goals are. Some students just want a degree for their own personal fulfillment. We try to work with them to find the right fit.”

Liptak’s focus for students is to get them comfortable with the program. Many students have enrolled in the IDEAL Program because of their initial contact with Liptak, who makes a personal connection with each student.

“It’s scary for students to come back to school,” Liptak said. “They don’t want to come to a place where they’re just another number again. We’re a little more approachable in the way we handle admissions.”

Bridgeport’s IDEAL Program also offers flexibility, including evening and weekend classes and online learning that lets students study on their time.

“A lot of our students are working full-time,” she said. “It’s a much different environment than it is for traditional students. Trying to find that balance and managing it is one of the biggest deterrents for prospective students. The way our classes are structured, with evening, weekend and online classes, it’s as customized as possible. We find the balance that works for them.”

by Tom Renner
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