



In memoriam of Rick Boyer

“Rick loved life and making the world a better place.”

- Brandon Lange

**By Sharon Adasme and
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Students and staff remember Dr. Rick Boyer as a caring, dedicated educator who went out of his way to help students succeed, brighten colleagues' days, and bring joy to the MCC campus.

Richard (Rick) Douglas Boyer was born Jan. 20, 1958 and died Oct. 4, 2017. The science professor taught at MCC for many years while running his own chiropractic practice since 1985. He was most recently employed as the Associate Dean of Allied Health at Scott Community College.

Boyer graduated from Thompson, Iowa High School in 1976, then attended University of Iowa, Iowa State University and Palmer College of Chiropractic. He graduated in 1984, and in June of the same year, married Monika Bode. They have three children, Kolton, Kaleb and Kally.

MCC students and staff miss Boyer dearly. Student Franklin Dixon, 21, said, "I cried when I first heard the news. That man was nothing but good to me."

As Dixon talks about him, it's clear that Boyer was compassionate with his students. "I was basically failing his class, and he stayed with me for over two hours on the day of the final helping me get work done so I could pass," Dixon said. "I've never had a teacher care that much about whether I passed or not."

Science Department Coordinator Brandon Lange said, "Rick loved life and making the world a better place. It's hard to see that from a student's perspective because of the seriousness of class, but anyone who had him in class knows he was a very caring and intelligent individual." He said there was, "Not a thing [Rick] didn't know about the human body, that's for sure."

Boyer had been at MCC ever since Lange arrived in 2010. Lange said Boyer, "continued to be the department head until he was asked to become the interim dean in the fall of 2015, when I assumed the role. When that interim dean role was over, he told me he had found his true calling, which was leading in an administrative role at a community college." Lange said that when Boyer heard about the opportunity at Scott Community College to become the associate dean of health programs, he was so excited to accept.

"Even though he was only that dean for a few months," said Lange, "he told me quite frequently that he loved it, because he was helping the health programs at Scott become stronger. He wanted EICC to be the first choice for every health professional in the area."



**Rick Boyer
1958-2017**

In or outside of class, students really thought highly of Dr. Boyer. Former student Abriana Ryan said, "Boyer was a fantastic professor and overall great guy. I had him for one of my Biology courses and he never failed to make that class interesting -- and that's coming from someone who isn't a huge fan of science."

Ryan said Boyer could keep students attentive through slideshows, board work, and cracking jokes now and again. "He pushed you in class, but was always there to help in class, after class, or to schedule a meeting with you if you had any questions. He was definitely one of my favorite professors at MCC and will be missed," said Ryan.

Boyer believed in people, and their potential. Joe Lovell also took Boyer's biology course, but was influenced by the caring professor well before the start of class.

"The first time I met Dr. Boyer was at my first meeting with an advisor. I was going for a chiropractic degree," Lovell said. "He asked me if there were any other things I would like to be. I said I wanted to be an actor, but a chiropractor would pay more. He then replied, 'Why not both?'"

"Boyer always encouraged students to pursue the arts, whether it was choir or theater. You'd see him at plays and concerts supporting the students. He always encouraged them to do their best, and his office was always open if you wanted to stop by and get help with homework or just chat."

Students and colleagues remember Boyer as the teacher whom students could really open up

to, more than just about stress over homework, and his students knew that he cared about them.

MCC graduate Alexis Sheeder said, "Dr. Boyer was one of my favorite professors. He told the best jokes, was one of the toughest professors I've ever had, pushed me to work my ass off and learn as much as possible and I had so much fun in his Anatomy & Physiology class."

Business Department Chairman John Dabeet went to many trainings with Boyer over the years they taught at MCC. "I remember him several times when we were traveling together in the same van, either to visit and attend a meeting at a school or to attend the staff development day. He always made all of us feel joyful even if it was very early in the morning."

He said Boyer, "was a true servant for all of his students. He was a great advocate of students at MCC."

Dabeet also said that Dr. Boyer was a very "sweet man" with integrity and loyalty to his students. "While Dr. Boyer is no longer physically with us, his spirit will always be around us. We lost a great professor who was loved by his students, colleagues, and friends. Dr. Boyer will be missed at MCC. He was a man of integrity, honor, respect, and he was down to earth. His sense of humor made us smile during difficult times. He is in a better place and we will always pray for his soul to rest in peace."

Calumet Design Editor Blake Thorson also was fortunate enough to be in Boyer's biology class. He said Boyer could explain things in the simplest way like no one else could. Thorson said in each class students could write any question they might have, and if they had time, Boyer would answer the questions and have a class discussion. "We also discussed random stuff that students wanted to," he said.

"It was beautiful. He was just a really out there kinda guy. He tried to make things interesting and tried to make sure things were understood by the whole class."

Lange said, "For me personally, Rick was a mentor. That word has many meanings, but he was someone I could always count on for advice and encouragement, even through the toughest of times. When I would make a decision, I would rely on his excellent advice."

But Dr. Boyer was more than just the science department head, more than just a body in the halls, and more than just a friend to talk to. Lange said, "He and Monika were always there for my family whenever I needed them. They would watch my dog, look after my house, and babysit my children when I needed one. He was always willing to help me. No matter the circumstances, he always found a way to help."

"He was inspirational. He was a good man. I miss him terribly each day."