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The Teaching and Learning Center is pleased to present the Ten Questions for Faculty Series. The series is dedicated to helping faculty to stay connected with one another while working remotely. Every week, a faculty member will have the opportunity to answer ten questions about themselves and about navigating the changes brought about by COVID-19. This week, we are pleased to feature Ray Lenius, Professor of Cardiovascular Technology and Cardiopulmonary Science.



Ray Lenius
Professor, Cardiovascular Technology and Cardiopulmonary Science

Where are you from?

I am originally from Rockford, IL. I moved to Cape Coral, FL, in 1974.

Which College or University did you attend?

After graduating from high school, I enlisted into the US Marine Corp and served four years. After my discharge, I worked retail for a few years, and I enrolled in a local technical college to learn how to become a computer programmer. Upon graduating in 1986, I returned to Southwest Florida and I worked for Lee County and in retail. In 1995, I felt it was time for a change and I enrolled in the Cardiovascular Technology Program at Edison Community College. It was during this time I discovered my passion for teaching. After I graduated from the program, I work in the local hospitals and I attended Florida Gulf Coast University to get my bachelor's and master's degrees in Health Education.

When did you begin teaching at FSW?

I started at Edison State College in 2002 as a clinical associate for the Cardiovascular Technology program. In 2005, I became an adjunct Instructor in the Cardiovascular Technology Program, and in 2011, I became a full-time instructor in the Cardiovascular Technology Program. I also teach in the bachelor's program for Cardiopulmonary Science.

What made you become interested in your academic discipline?

After working for years in retail I felt it was time for a change. I was always interested in the anatomy and physiology of the human body. One day I talked to a customer at my job, and they told me about the cardiac catheterization lab and what they do. I did some research and I found out that Edison Community College had a cardiovascular program. I contacted the program director, Jeff Davis, and he gave me a tour of a catheterization lab at a local hospital. The first time I saw an angiogram of a coronary artery I was hooked on wanting to work in the cardiovascular discipline.

What jobs or positions have you held that were formative for you and from which you draw experience that shapes your approach to teaching?

Before I became a teacher, I had many jobs; most of them in the service industry. Working with the public helped me realize how much I enjoyed helping people solve their problems. In addition, it helped me develop my assessment and critical thinking skills; both are very important in healthcare. During my time as a student in the cardiovascular program, I would help my fellow students study, and it was during this time I discovered I enjoyed teaching. My fellow students would tell me how well I was able to help them understand the information from the class.

What is your favorite food and local restaurant?

Although I enjoy eating in general, my favorite food is Italian. This is good since my favorite restaurant is Ciao's in Cape Coral. We are hoping to go again this summer once the seasonal residents leave.

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and what would you ask them?

I have always been interested in space travel, and I would go to the space station if I could. I would love to have dinner with Neil Armstrong and ask him what it was like to travel in space and be the first person on the moon and how he feels space exploration has changed the world.

What new things have you learned or done as a result of COVID-19 and working remotely and how has it changed your outlook on life?

I have learned that I can change and handle difficult situations when I must. I discovered that teaching ground classes while wearing a mask is not enjoyable. I also learned that our students in the Cardiovascular Technology program are resilient and have stepped up to meet the challenge.

COVID-19 has increased online learning, and as a result, the need for promoting inclusivity in virtual learning environments. What ideas can you share with your colleagues about how to ensure inclusivity in the virtual classroom?

When I was going to FGCU to obtain my bachelor's and master's degrees, I did all of my classes online. I did like this format, and it was the best way for me to take classes. However, I also

discovered how at times, life, in general, could cause difficulty in completing assignments. Therefore, when I started teaching online classes at FGCU and in the Cardiovascular Technology program at FSW, I tried to empathize with the students who might be facing some challenges in their lives. During COVID-19, I have tried to be even more understanding. Each culture is different in how they handle family emergencies, and this needs to be taken into consideration during this pandemic.

What advice do you have for your colleagues on how to navigate social isolation and changes from COVID-19?

I know people have the desire to socialize because that is our nature, and we need it. However, during the pandemic, if people decide to socialize, they need to do it safely. It is better to reduce socializing than be sick in the hospital with COVID-19, which would cause them to be isolated from all of their family.

If you would like to be featured in the Ten Questions for Faculty series, please contact Kelly Westfield: kwestfield@fsw.edu

The Teaching and Learning Center

Florida SouthWestern State College
Thomas Edison Campus | A-210
tlc@fsw.edu

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