

Dr. Fred Grogan - Kindness

Dr. Fred Grogan, president of MCC-Longview, has a distinguished career in the world of higher education. For those who are privileged to work with him, he is a beacon of compassionate leadership. As a college president, he makes tough decisions every day. But for Dr. Grogan, some of those decisions aren't so tough—they are simply a natural product of his kindness. Friends and colleagues could certainly cite a myriad of stories to demonstrate how this trait manifests itself in Dr. Grogan, but perhaps a recent event says it best.

A young female, a victim of domestic abuse and educational neglect, wanted desperately to enroll in one of MCC-Longview's career programs. When her plight was brought to Dr. Grogan's attention, he stepped in and asked college personnel to address issues of testing the young woman's abilities, recommend developmental curriculum, individualize instruction in reading, check on financial aid eligibility and accommodation for special needs, find assistance with textbooks, and provide counseling and mentoring. Arrangements were made to have her textbooks recorded so she could listen to the text since her reading ability was so low.

Knowing that this young woman would need a strong connection at the college, and a person to whom she could go when she had questions, Dr. Grogan opened his own office door to her with priority. He recruited a dean to be ready to assist the student when he was out of the office and encouraged college personnel to help her take things one semester at a time.

The student is happy, working hard, experiencing success, and keeping in touch with Dr. Grogan and other college personnel. This instance of his kind heart and his belief in our making a difference is not the first nor will it be the last. He inspires all of us to look at all students with soft eyes, with believing hearts and knowing minds.