



About Allison McFadden – FEPPP Fellow

Tracy Godat, FEPPP Executive Director, sat down with Allison McFadden who has been a Business Education instructor and FBLA advisor at Capital High School in Olympia for 38 years. She has also taught at South Puget Sound Community College. She currently is teaching 2 full-year Financial Algebra courses, Street Law, MakeCode Arcade (block programming) and an online credit retrieval program. Allison is a Financial Fellow for the Financial Education Public-Private Partnership (FEPPP) and a trainer for teacher education as well. Tracy asked Allison to share some of her teaching experiences and here's what she had to say.

TG: How did you get your start as a teacher?

AM: While I was in college, I thought about having a career in the business world but really wanted to work with students. I have many teachers in my family as role models and decided to blend business with education.

TG: Why have you stayed in education for so long?

AM: Truly – it is about teaching financial education. It has such an impact on their lives now and in the future. The resources have become so much better. I love teaching them about what they will need to know not only now but for their future selves.

TG: What have you noticed over the years that has the highest impact to student learning?

AM: The biggest impact has been making a connection with the student. By establishing that relationship, it leads to a better learning environment and better results.

TG: I know students stay in contact with you over the years, why do you think that is?

AM: On one hand, the relationship we build makes a difference. Also, the content I teach carries over into their future and they draw connections between what they learned in class and the decisions that they have to make right away as they get out of school. I get a lot of students that contact me regarding material we covered and how they have used it in their life. Two students that I had in my Financial Algebra class - they invited me to their wedding and invited me to their open house when they bought their first house (they were in their early 20's at the time!).

TG: How does it make you feel when you see them successfully using those skills?

AM: That is why I am still teaching. The content is so relevant and important. It has such an impact on what they are doing today and for their future self.

TG: Why are you passionate about financial education?

AM: This is the one area, historically, where we have not done a great job educating students or adults. It is the one class I wish that I had had in high school. Students also spread their knowledge to other friends and family members – it's nice knowing that it can make a difference in someone's life!