

## The Hush-Hush of life

*Mr. Hipps is a 44-year-old man, was raised in Spokane, Washington. He has been a teacher for 12 years and is currently employed by the Tacoma Public School System at Lincoln High School. I interviewed Mr. Hipps because he consistently seemed to have advice for his students. He focuses on assisting students in acquiring critical life skills like communication, problem-solving, and time management. He encourages students to engage in critical thought and to be open to various viewpoints. He urges his students to take charge of their education and be proactive in their own learning. He also provides advice on how to develop and achieve goals as well as how to deal with the opportunities and obstacles of moving from high school to college or the workforce. He can assist their students in building the knowledge and self-assurance they need to achieve in the future by imparting their experience and providing advice and assistance. Using a phone voice recorder, the interview was captured while it was taking place in class.*

**Me:** *Do you think students should go to college after high school?*

**Mr. Hipps:** It depends on the individual because some people are clear on why they want to attend college. They must choose whether the career they want is worthwhile of attending college for. If the projected return on your work or salary is \$100,000, attending college makes sense, but if it is just \$30,000, it doesn't. Therefore, for many people, devoting more time after high school to career planning makes more sense than enrolling in college right away.

*If a student is unsure of their job aspirations, it might not be the best course of action for them to enroll in college right away. Spending some time exploring your options and deciding which career path is best can be beneficial. Lack of life experience could force them into a career they later regret. I think people should take a gap year to have a better sense of what life is like outside of school and to be exposed to other career options. Some professions demand a college education, while others do not. It could be vital to attend college if you have a certain job objective in mind.*

**Me:** *Do you have any regrets going to college?*

**Mr. Hipps:** Yes, I do. I attended community college and, for the most part, blew it. I spent far too much time in community college since I wasn't taking it seriously in college and wasn't attending my classes. Then, I was paying for my college when I attended WSU. This made me take college more seriously and helped me to

understand why I was there at the time. I do regret not switching my major. I wish my major, marketing, would have been something else. I still regret not treating college more seriously when I first started.

*You would treat things more seriously once you understood how important time is and how it is your most valuable possession. You don't want to spend the rest of your life trying to make up for lost time; instead, you should use your time wisely to work toward the goals that will lead you to the lifestyle and job you desire. In light of this, squandering time on activities that won't benefit you in the long run will make you regret it. Take your time after high school for personal and professional development. This is the time to learn about your interests, acquire valuable life skills, and become ready for your future profession. Never undervalue the importance of this period of time, and make the most of it by seizing the chances that present themselves. My goal here is to assist individuals grasp the value of life after high school and to help them live it to the fullest without experiencing regret, sorrow, or grief.*

**Me:** *What is success to you?*

**Mr. Hipps:** As you know I've been wrangling about this question for a while, so what is success? Is having a new Tesla a sign of success? Is possessing a luxurious home a sign of success? I'm not sure what success is, but at the moment, it means having enough money to live comfortably and having free time to enjoy life. For instance, leaving work early to watch my children, or taking the weekends off. Having the time to do the things I want to do in life since my career has progressed to the point where I can do that.

*Based on this I think success depends on the individual and what they define as success because everyone has different priorities, values, and aspirations. It's possible that what one person defines as success and what another person defines as success are significantly different. For instance, reaching a high level of financial stability may be one person's definition of success while having strong ties to family and friends may be another. Success is ultimately a personal matter that depends on each person's definition and point of view. Additionally, it's critical to keep in mind that you should set your own ideals and objectives rather than attempting to live up to others' standards. In order to attain true happiness and contentment, you must chase your expectations because if you don't, you can end up feeling very dissatisfied or unsatisfied. It is ultimately up to you to define and attain success; do not allow others decide what it means to you.*

**Me:** *For the newer generations listening to this from years from now, is there any wisdom you want to pass on to them?*

**Mr. Hipps:** *Everything is what you make of it; I can send you to Harvard and you can sit in class and not pay attention, or I can send you to TCC and you can sit in class and not pay attention. Everything is the same; it all depends on what you want to do at the end of the day and how motivated you are to get where you want to be at.*

*Even if you have all the tools you need to be successful, it doesn't mean nothing until you take action and use what you have. In truth, when you stand in front of a mirror you see yourself. The person you see is yourself and that is your worst enemy. You are holding yourself back to doing the right things. The saying "your worst enemy is yourself" is a well-known one, and there are a number of reasons why this might be the case. We frequently have unfavorable thoughts and self-doubt, which can hold us back and keep us from accomplishing our aspirations, is one explanation for this. These ideas could make you put things off, feel bad about yourself, and be unmotivated. We can turn against ourselves when we let these unfavorable thoughts rule our minds. The mind is the only thing we have full control of and if we lose that control we be like a leaf being blown by the wind left right left right, not in control. Letting people decide our fate, proving people who doubted you right. It is critical to recognize our negative ideas and behaviors and make an effort to change them. For example turning the negative into positive by just saying certain things. Instead of saying "I have to go to school" Say "I get to go to school." You won't realize the impact this will have unless you do this consistently.*

**Me:** *I appreciate your time and wish you a happy rest of the day.*

**Mr. Hipps:** No problem, same to you.

*This resembled less of an interview and more like a conversation, in this I discovered how important life is after high school. I learned after high school, it is a critical period for personal and professional growth. It's the ideal time to discover my passions, acquire practical life skills, and get prepared for my future career. I should never underestimate the significance of this time period, and make the most of it by taking advantage of the opportunities that come my way. I will apply this to my life and be successful.*

