

**"IF YOU WANT IT,  
YOU GOTTA  
WORK FOR IT.  
I ENCOURAGE  
MY STUDENTS TO  
NEVER SETTLE  
AND NEVER  
GIVE UP."**

: Lisa Bright

Hayashi consulted with friends, the ones who seemed to be happy with their jobs. "I knew a few librarians and they inspired me to go into library sciences." When she talked to her husband about going back to school, he said, "If it makes you happy, do it." With the support of her loved ones and the determination to make a positive change, she earned yet another degree, but this time it was for herself.

Hayashi currently works as a public services librarian at Leeward Community College. "Going back to school was the best decision I ever made. Now when I wake up, there's no need for wellness checks or excuses." Through her role as a librarian, Hayashi helps students, faculty, and staff find the information they're looking for. "I'm so lucky. I'm one of those people who looks forward to going to work."

#### Figure of speech

For Lisa Bright, helping people came naturally. One of her first jobs was at a makeup counter at a department store. "I enjoyed teaching customers about their skin, how to care for themselves, and how to wear cosmetics."

She earned a marketing degree from Kapi'olani Community College and worked at various companies in different capacities. Bright planned events at Hawaii Public Radio and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and also worked in finance and health care.

But Bright found herself at a crossroads when she was laid off from her research and regulatory compliance job after nine years. "My husband had been laid off earlier and was pursuing a master's degree so he could teach. He inspired me to go back to school instead looking for another job in the same field," Bright remembers. She decided to pursue a degree in journalism with the goal of becoming a

technical writer. She liked the idea of translating complex, technical ideas into understandable information.

Bright decided to continue her education and get a master's in communications so she could be a corporate trainer. "Since there aren't any graduate classes in corporate training, I took a course in teaching. I really enjoyed it."

It's no surprise that Bright now teaches communications at Kapi'olani Community College. Her passion for helping people and giving them skills for success were always there. Bright notes, "I've been conveying information to others all my life. I like to do it in a way that's enjoyable, fun, memorable, and as painless as possible." And that's what being a good teacher is all about.

#### You do you

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Americans spend an average of 43.6% of their day working. So it's important to love what you do.

If you're unhappy with your job, you're not alone. Glassdoor.com estimates that 40% of U.S. employees are disengaged at work. So what can you do? Hayashi recommends volunteering at places you're interested in. "That way, you'll know if it's a true passion or just a hobby."

You could also talk to people in fields that you're interested in pursuing and ask them about the benefits and challenges of their job. Or you might try a personality or career test to assess your strengths, weaknesses, and interests. Self-reflection through journaling is also a great way to discover the kind of job that could make you happy.

Once you know what you want to do, Bright says persistence and grit are key. "If you want it, you gotta work for it. I encourage my students to never settle and never give up." **15**



Lisa Bright