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Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne  
Ph.D: Morgan State University  
Previous career: accounting, law, high school math teacher



Although this is my fourth career, and the path to it certainly wasn't straight, professorship links the lessons I learned along the way.

I have taught high school, practiced as a CPA and practiced law for 24 years. While practicing law, I had to support sick relatives as well as three daughters, so I started teaching accounting in addition to my legal work, to help support them. I was always working. I would pull up my car under a tree for a nap between court and my class. I was up studying and preparing most nights until 2 A.M., and back to the law office or court by 8 A.M.

My colleagues at Texas Southern University encouraged me to apply to Ph.D programs and they convinced me to go for it immediately. I enrolled at Morgan State, and I was teaching accounting at Howard University while earning my doctorate. I would have an 8 AM doctoral class at Morgan in Baltimore, then take the train to D.C. to teach a class at Howard.

I was ready to quit that first semester. It was such a big change for me, and money was tight. What got me through? Tears, prayers and my daughters. One of them is a lawyer; she helped me meet my expenses. Yoga and walking helped me relieve the stress.

My research encompasses corporate governance, executive compensation, and business failure. I feel that being an accounting professor brings all of my careers together – teaching math, accounting and law.

I hope to encourage students to realize their fullest potential with hard work and persistence.