

The Power of Purpose: What makes you come alive?

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Students in Professor Jan McCauley's COL 105 course have dreams, some more defined than others. Careers in law, communications, sports medicine. Working with special-needs children. A budding sign language translator.

Many, though, don't really know yet — and that's okay.

"I'm not sure what I want to do, but I thought that experiencing different classes would help," a first-semester student told Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Francis Battisti.

Battisti, a SUNY Broome alumnus himself, visited two Academic Planning seminars on October 19 to spread "the power of purpose." He shared some of his own story. An Endicott native whose father emigrated from Italy by himself at the age of 14, he received his first degrees in finance and landed a job in new York City — only to discover that he hated the field. He headed back to school for a degree in psychology, and became a college professor, psychotherapist and motivational speaker.

Career paths aren't always straightforward, he noted.

"If you see someone who enjoys what they're doing, ask them how they got there," he advised students.

Battisti listened to students' concerns, and asked them about their aspirations and hometowns. He then led students in an introspective exercise, asking them to think about their passions, their innate strengths and skills, and how they will measure their life's accomplishments.

What makes you come alive? That's a question many students — and former students — may want to visit at various points in their lives, he noted. For now, students' focus remained firmly on getting good grades and keeping their GPA up. They also reflected on their strengths: patience, organization, self-motivation.

New people and new ideas are what McCauley remembers most about her college days.

"Having grown up here in Endwell, it was a kind of coming alive," she said.



Executive Vice President Francis Battisti visits Professor Jan McCauley's Academic Success seminar.



