Randall Lynn Wright—A Tribute to a Colleague and Friend

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Abstract
A tribute to Professor Randall Lynn Wright who died in October 2014.

Keywords
tribute, eulogy, obituary

Author Statement
Carolyn Eggleston and Thom Gehring are professors in the College of Education at California State University San Bernardino. They are leaders in the field of correctional education. Carolyn Eggleston can be contacted at Egglesto@csusb.edu and Thom Gehring can be contacted at tgehring101@aol.com.

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Beloved Professor Randall Lynn Wright passed away on October 19, 2014 after a long journey with lung cancer. He was just 61 years old.

Randall was born in London, Ontario Canada, August 8, 1953, to Kathleen McCormick and George Wright. He graduated from McGill University, Montreal, Canada and obtained his Ph.D. in Philosophy in Education at University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Randall excelled as a Professor at California State University of San Bernardino in the College of Education. He was greatly respected and appreciated by students and staff. He was well known for his advocacy in correctional education and was an accomplished international author, who felt honored to work within his chosen field.

Dr. Wright came to California State University San Bernardino from Canada in September 2003, because of his expertise and experience in prison education. He also taught classes in the MA core, the Ed.D. program and in the Education minor. His contributions to the life of the College, to the University and to the lives of students was appreciated by students, faculty, and staff.

Randall cared deeply about people in prison and their educational needs. However, he was also committed to many other people and demonstrated this in profoundly beautiful ways. His concern for social justice was lived and not just preached. Academically, he was a profound thinker and also a compassionate man.

For the last seven years, even with his illness, he continued to teach and contribute to the life of the University, while undergoing more than thirty rounds of chemotherapy. Even when his voice was affected, he continued to find creative ways to teach. He developed online teaching procedures that have been recognized by the entire University. He also worked closely with a series of student dissertations in the Ed.D. program, as well as continuing to write and communicate his passion.

He was an excellent faculty member and supporter of the College. He was writing right up to the week before he died; he had an article published in the first edition of the new journal on prison education and reentry. He submitted a second article for consideration shortly before he passed. That is the kind of commitment and support of the correctional education field that he held, even in the face of great adversity.

All in the College of Education are moved by his passing and wish his family, Pat, Kevin, and Christina, much comfort and many lasting memories of Randall to treasure. Randall’s family faced his illness together, and all supported one another. During the illness, they worked together and became an even stronger unit. It was wonderful to see, even in the face of this tragedy.
His was a kind and noble soul. He supported his family, his students, and his colleagues. He will be missed.

A scholarship in his name has been made to the CSUSB College of Education. Donations can be made to the Dr. Randall Lynn Wright Memorial Scholarship at:

www.gofundme.com/g1aeuo.