

## **Presidential Job Shadow: 10/25/2017**

I was given the opportunity to job shadow President Lonnie Howard on October 25, 2017. My day started in the president's office at 7:45 am. Veronica greeted me and gave me a schedule of the meetings that Dr. Howard and I would attend throughout the day. Dr. Howard greeted me with a smile and a firm handshake. With this, our busy day began.

Before we took off in what felt like a full sprint at times, we took a few minutes to get to know each other. We discussed hobbies and interests. The thing that really resonated with me was how he took the time to encourage me in my educational pursuit. I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in economics from Lamar University. My progress is slow going since I only take a few courses each year. I was encouraged to learn that it took Dr. Howard twelve years to earn his first associate's degree. He was very encouraging and took time to be open and honest with me.

Our busy day started by going downstairs to Financial Aid to speak with Dr. Rochelle. On our way, Dr. Howard took time to speak to each person that he met along the way, making sure to introduce me to each individual. I was impressed with his attention to detail and that he offered each person a genuine greeting. It was not a generic "how do you do?" given to every person. It was heart felt and personal to each individual.

After that it was back to his office for an impromptu meeting with three individuals regarding recruiting and retention. This would be a recurring theme throughout the day. Dr. Howard is dedicated and committed to increasing enrollment and making LIT the absolute best that it can be.

Our next adventure was the President's Cabinet meeting. Throughout my time here at LIT I have heard many people mention "President's Cabinet" but I never really knew what transpired in the meeting. While meeting with his cabinet, we discussed many things from recruiting and retention to risk management. Though he did not say it specifically, the tone of the meeting was that we have some forward momentum with our 1.7% enrollment increase and we want to keep that momentum moving forward.

Our next meeting was with his leadership team. Among other topics we discussed recruiting and retention. Specifically we discussed the Advisor/Recruiter position that he created.

Our final agenda item was the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Mid-Year Report and board meeting. This was a great opportunity to meet community leaders and hear about what is going on to make Beaumont the best it can be.

To sum up my entire day into one word: transparency. Dr. Howard invited me into his entire day. He did not ask me to step out for any part of it. He was completely transparent. I appreciate this opportunity and have a deeper respect for the immense amount of work that Dr. Howard puts into LIT.