



LEWIS-CLARK

STATE COLLEGE

LC State Graduates Do More

A series featuring Warriors, written by Warriors

Jack Reiswig: Better than a Disney Movie

Remember when you were little and dreamed up the coolest job? Legendary careers likely graced the pages of your imagination as you envisioned yourself as a fireman, astronaut, veterinarian, or – Mr. Banks?

From the renowned classic “Mary Poppins,” the character George Banks is a sourly banker who works his life away while his children grow up without the loving presence of a father. It is not exactly what kids picture as their ideal real-life career.



Introducing Jack Reiswig, career banker and vice president of Mountain West Bank. When asked if he always planned to pursue this career, he chuckled and said, “It was actually on accident.” But contrary to Mr. Banks, Reiswig knows how to care for his family and have fun. When he is not cutting savvy loans to help local businesses, he is spending time with his family and adventuring.

Maybe bankers deserve a different typecasting.

It all started when he relocated to Portland for school and a teller invited him to apply for a position at a local Wells Fargo. That was 2002. Now he is back in North Idaho and has ascended the rungs of the banking ladder to his current position in Mountain West Bank, where he also serves his community as a commercial lender.

“The things I enjoy the

most are working with the local businesses,” he said. “We have some fantastic businesses here – businesses you’d never know were here that do amazing things, have lots of employees, and have revenues of millions of dollars a year. It’s a great career, it’s been good to me.”

He almost went another direction. Mid-career, he returned to school to pursue accounting.

The advisors at Lewis-Clark State College Coeur d’Alene encouraged

him to reconsider and he ultimately determined a business degree made the most sense because, as he emphatically put it, “I really enjoy my job.”

But why go back to school in the first place?

“I could move up to executive management one day down the road, which I think would be really fascinating... I don’t foresee leaving it,” he said.

Returning to college was going to be tough, or so he thought. “I needed some help, being gone for so long from education,” he said. “I went to three different colleges prior to LC State, so I think I kind of drug my feet longer than I should have. It seems overwhelming, you know?”

He was pleasantly surprised when LC State accepted the majority of his out-of-state credits. He said, “It was one of those things that in my mind I built up to be this big obstacle or hurdle and then it was like, oh, that wasn’t bad at all. [They] helped me map out the right schedule with the right amount of credits I felt like I could handle. It was pretty smooth and easy.”

He did hit a small bump, however, returning to college and trying to earn his degree as fast as possible.

“My first semester I took too many credits and I don’t think anyone enjoyed that,” he said. “My initial thought was to take as many classes as I could,

and then I quickly learned that wasn’t the best for my happiness and my family. You don’t want to get spread too thin and then do everything poorly.”

He enlisted the help of his co-workers at Mountain West Bank and his family, who all supported his efforts. Laughing, he remembered, “I think I had my daughter proofread some of my papers,” he said. His wife’s graciousness was also key, “I

talked with my wife about [it] and wanted to make sure that I didn’t miss too much,

you know? Your kids are only little once.”

Their collective decision allowed Reiswig to regularly attend his kids’ events while finishing his education.



“I wanted to show my kids how important a college degree was,” he said.

The staff and students at LC State were also assets. Many of his peers were nontraditional students and balanced their schooling with families and full-time employment. This led them to regularly meet outside of class hours to study. As a group, they fondly remember business professor Rachel Kaitz for the genuine way she cared for her students and extended grace when other circumstances took precedence over schooling.

Reiswig proposed a final piece of advice, originally offered by a friend of his: “Never choose not to go back to school because it takes time. The time will pass anyways,” he said.



Morganne Nutt is a senior at the Lewis-Clark State College Coeur d’Alene Center and will graduate with her Bachelor of Science in communications in spring 2022. She transferred from North Idaho College after obtaining two associate degrees, and plans to attend graduate school to continue studying communications. Ultimately, she seeks a career in media, publications, editing, mediation, and/or community relations. Morganne is the recipient of the Work Scholar Award, which provides LC State students with a tuition waiver in exchange for work service to LC State.

LC STATE BY THE NUMBERS

#1 lowest tuition in Idaho among public four-year institutions.

Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as **#3** in the West.

12:1 student-to-teacher ratio for academic programs.

Academic programs graduates have a **96%** placement rate.

80% of students receive some form of financial aid.

Ranked **#1** school for non-traditional students. (*Best College Reviews*)

130+ degrees and certificate programs.

Ranked by The Economist as **#2** in Idaho for economic value.