

## AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

**Ayers Institute “My Why” Podcast**  
*Episode 1 – January 2018*  
Title: *Deborah Boyd*

### SPEAKERS

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<b>DB</b>	Deborah Boyd	Dean, Lipscomb University College of Education

### FULL TRANSCRIPT

#### *INTRODUCTION:*

**RM:** For some it is a decision made after a moment of epiphany. For others, they can't imagine a time when they wanted to be anything else. They are teachers. They are leaders. They are life changers. These are their stories.

**DB:** My name is Deborah Boyd from Nashville Tennessee. And this is my why.

Education is one of those professions that you don't always see the end game. You have to wait sometimes. But, when you see what you've done come to completion, and when you see it help a student succeed, then that's a triumph both for you and for the student.

**RM:** Welcome to my why: stories of inspiration from educators. This podcast is presented by the Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning & Innovation and brought to you by the College of Education at Lipscomb University where 21st century educators are prepared to involve, impact, and inspire.

My name is Rachel Milligan. Today we are joined by Dr. Deborah Boyd dean of Lipscomb University's College of Education in Nashville Tennessee. She has also worked at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Department of Education, and in the K-12 world as a school principal and as a teacher.

Deborah, thank you for being here today.

**DB:** Happy to be here.

#### *EPISODE BODY:*

**RM:** Why is working as an educator important to you?

**DB:** I love learning, and— in and of itself— I think that's at the root of why I'm an educator. I love teaching because I see what learning can do: for me, for others. And, that relationship that gets built is powerful both for the teacher and the learner. And, ultimately it changes who you are and changes lives.

**RM:** Did you always know you wanted to be an educator?

**DB:** No, I didn't. I had lots of other career options in mind but ultimately teaching is where I landed. And it's been a good life.

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**RM:** Think about who was your favorite teacher. Talk about that a little bit.

**DB:** I had some favorite teachers. They were the ones who made me think. They were the ones who opened up worlds I've never seen before. Who encouraged me to explore and I can remember them all the way from Ms. Manning in the sixth grade to and Ms. Bracey and Mr. Nelson in high school and people of that nature who really encouraged me to use my mind to go places I've never thought about going before.

So, I've always been a believer that education is your route to many things and those can be self-serving and they can be community serving. They can be because you chose that path or education can prepare you for a path you didn't see coming but it opens up in front of you and— because of what you've learned, and because of how you know how to think – you can take a path that you never ever thought of before.

**RM:** What do you hope your students remember most about you?

**DB:** I hope that they remember that my goal was always their success. Some of them will remember, I think, that my expectations were high and therefore sometimes difficult. At the same time, I always believed they could do it and I was always willing to help them get there.

So, I hope that's what they remember: that their success was at the heart of everything we did.

**RM:** What would you go back and tell yourself as a first-year educator?

**DB:** I think it's important to be transparent: to be transparent in your motives, to make it clear to students that their success is your goal.

The person who should go into education should love change, love learning, love people, and be willing to be dedicated to those things. And I think that requires a clear and defined skill set and it requires a heart for learning. The reward is hopefully a life that you look back on and think to yourself I made that difference and I continue to make that difference: for the students, for the community, even for myself. I was able to make an impact and change lives.

**RM:** Will you please sum up your “My Why” story in six words or less.

**DB:** I'd like to do it in two ways. OK. So, “teaching and learning feeds my curiosity.” (Keeps me mentally sharp. Keeps me curious about the world, and the things around me, and the people around me.) The other piece of that is “teaching and learning changes lives.” (For others. For myself.) Simply enough.

### *CONCLUSION:*

**RM:** As we close today's episode we encourage you to consider your own sources of motivation. What inspires you to do what you do. What is your “why?” Share your ideas on social media using @AyersInstitute and #MyWhy. Also, check out the handout including: some of Dr. Boyd's favorite resources and lessons learned, her six word memoir, and other helpful information. This handout can be found on <http://eduTOOLBOX.org>.

Connect with Lipscomb's College of Education on social media at @LipscombCofEd and with the Ayres Institute on Facebook and Twitter at @AyersInstitute.

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I'm Rachel Milligan producer and host for the MyWhy podcast. This episode was directed by Julia Osteen. Forrest Doddington handles editing and technical production. This podcast is brought to you by Lipscomb University's College of Education.

Thank you for joining us for “My Why: stories of inspiration from educators.” Look for other episodes of this podcast and other Ayers Institute professional learning podcasts at <http://podcast.AyersInstitute.org>.