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Roose has devoted her life's work to education

By Lisa Roose-Church
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

As a teacher, Marybeth Roose oftentimes needed to exercise grace under pressure.

It is a characteristic she learned as a member of the Eastern Michigan University's synchronized swimming team and it is a trait that guided her through 35 years in the educational field, including the past three decades spent at Howell Public Schools.

"I think education is the key to being able to do whatever it is you want to do," the 60-year-old Brighton woman said. "You never want an opportunity to come along that you would very much like to take advantage of, and not have the qualifications to do so."

Roose's interest in education comes naturally. Her mother, the late Francine Schlee, taught middle school.

"She was an exceptional teacher," Roose said of her mother, whom she calls a mentor.

Roose pursued education steadfastly. She earned a bachelor's degree and a secondary teaching degree at Eastern Michigan University in the late 1960s.

While there, Roose became interested in the university's synchronized swimming team. The sport demanded grace, endurance and training.

"It's so graceful," she said. "It's part of a team sport,

Zoom Photo



Photo by ALAN WARD/DAILY PRESS ARGUS

Secretary Debbie Fondriest, left, speaks with Marybeth Roose prior to Roose's leaving her position as Director of Community Education and Communications for Howell School.

About Marybeth Roose

Age: 60

Residence: Brighton

Family: Husband, Jim Roose; daughter, Stacy; son Scott; three grandsons.

How you might know her: Community education director for Howell Public Schools

Something you might not know about her: She was a member of her college synchronized swimming team.

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which I definitely enjoyed. ... The opportunity to do that does not come along very often; it was made available at Eastern and I was thrilled to be part of the team.

"It was a challenge. What we did as a whole was so much more than what we did as an individual. It is something I still enjoy doing today, although by myself with no onlookers present," she said, laughing.

After EMU, Roose earned a master's degree at the University of Detroit and eventually an educational specialist de-gree from EMU as well as a doctorate of philosophy from Michigan State University.

She has taught at the high school level in private schools in Farmington and Redford Township, as well as undergraduate and graduate classes at Wayne County Community College, Lansing Community College, Mercy College and Eastern Michigan University.

Roose said there have been many benefits to "each and every single" aspect of her teaching career. She taught American history, sociology and literature to high school students. She taught organizational theory, as well as several classes in the areas of community education and adult education, at the college level.

Roose enjoyed teaching at both levels, and she noted that each presented its own challenges.

In teaching high school in the late 1960s, Roose said the most she had to worry about was collecting milk money and other school-related activities. In college, however, the audience changed to students "dedicated to a profession, who come in and are willing to learn."

"There is no feeling like walking out of a classroom after just having taught a class session and knowing that you've done a good job," she said. "I enjoyed the challenge of making all my classes relevant for the students before me, whether they were 16 years (old) or 60 years (old)."

One of her most memorable moments, Roose said, was presenting a high school diploma to a 68-year-old woman.

"It was extremely heartwarming, satisfying and I honestly felt privileged to be a part of helping her in achieving that," she said.

Roose joined Howell Public Schools in 1977 as its new community education director.

"I had no idea what community education was all about until I came to How-ell," she said.

"It just enchanted me. The fact you were working with people who were given a second chance," she added.


As the district's community education director, Roose has been able to assist in providing educational opportunities for young adults and adults to finish requirements for a high school diploma or a general educational development, or GED, certificate.

"I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to help make a positive difference in the lives of these students," she said.

Roose also served as the district's coordinator of grants and compliance issues. She also was the district's director of communications. That role gave her the opportunity to "know a variety of community members, parents and others," she said.



"This has been an enriching experience, albeit, challenging at times," Roose said.

Contact Daily Press & Argus reporter Lisa Roose-Church at (517) 552-2846 or at lrchurch@gannett.com.

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