

As a child, Katey Johnson observed how education supported her parents as they worked to build a better life for their family.

It's a long-instilled value that inspires her to support her students both in and out of the classroom at Montcalm Community College.

Johnson has worked at MCC since 2007. During her early years, she taught various mathematics courses as an adjunct faculty member. Johnson is now a full-time instructor who teaches statistics, trigonometry, college algebra and mathematics for elementary teachers.

"My primary goal in teaching is to assist students in improving their lives and reaching their full potential," Johnson said.

Johnson has been working to achieve this goal for most of her career. Before joining MCC, she taught earth science, biology, AP biology, algebra, geometry and general math at Belding High School and Lowell Middle and High Schools.

Johnson was raised by parents who saw education as their way out of poverty. She works to motivate her students to be the best versions of themselves and to create bright futures.

"I will do everything I can to assist students in achieving all they can. I have seen first-hand the difference a college degree and professional career can have on a family and I want my students to be able to provide their families with the brightest future possible," she said.

Besides teaching, Johnson enjoys coaching youth athletics. She has coached basketball and volleyball teams at the high school and middle school levels.

Johnson's love of mathematics and helping others achieve their dreams is evident in all she does.

"Mathematics is often a content area that tends to hold students back from achieving their aspirations and it is my

sincere hope that my students realize that if they are willing to work as hard as I do, they will be able to successfully complete my course and move on to their next endeavor without their math class holding them back," she said.

One of Johnson's favorite moments of her teaching career happened during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of her students had fallen behind with only four weeks left in her statistics class. The students' children were transitioning to online learning and her job at a local hospital was requiring her to work more hours due to the pandemic.

Johnson said that sometimes the meetings included her children and the students' children sitting on their laps while they worked. They would laugh about their crazy lives, but they could both see the progress that was being made and that success was within reach.

In addition to classroom instruction, Johnson will take on the role of Online Education Committee Chair this fall at MCC. She will help facilitate and guide the committee as they work to implement online education best practices. Q