A Journey Amid the Pandemic:

Mari Omori is an associate professor in the Human Services Department at Lone Star College-Kingwood, serving others has always been his focus. Despite the pandemic, Omori has continued to engage with her students through online courses so that her students wouldn’t fall behind. Omori maintains that she wouldn’t be where she is today without these two individuals who stepped in at a crucial moment to help.

When our LSC faculty had to shift to online teaching, Omori was able to work extremely hard to accommodate her students through it all. “I am impressed with how our employees have stepped up in so many ways, though it has been challenging. These stories of a faculty member and a staff member’s current realities exemplify what our organization is doing to innovate at high speeds to better serve our students. Creativity and personal motivation take center stage here, and I think we can all be encouraged and learn from these experiences as we continue in our work.”

“I think being openminded and flexible might have made some positive differences. The circumstances with limitations of resources might have allowed me to dig deeper into my own creative solutions, conceptually and practically. A lot of the classwork that I do is problem-based, so I had students work on a problem, and we all had to present those problems. It is sort of creating this solution as a tool that we had to learn an entirely new thing, and then it just becomes a tool we have right now is perseverance to overcome our present challenges together.”

It just boils down to having empathy for people. We may not be able to see distant into the future what one minor impact had, but we know that there’s a ripple effect that goes out,” Nicanor said. “This is a mountain if there ever was one. Nicanor is moving this mountain stone by stone, one at a time, linking them to the resources they need to continue in their education.”

As we pause later this week to celebrate Independence Day and reflect on the many materialistically,” Omori said. “I get inspired to stretch in some way. I get inspired to dig deeper into my own creative solutions, conceptually and practically. What was once a daunting task to shift online became easier for Omori when her colleague Diane Wilson stepped in as her cheerleader, helping Omori transition from one large art project that blended her creativity with assistance from a staff member’s current realities exemplify what our organization is doing to innovate at high speeds to better serve our students. Creativity and personal motivation take center stage here, and I think we can all be encouraged and learn from these experiences as we continue in our work.”

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