

So You Want to Be an Educator

LCCC Career Exploration Podcast

Music:	00:00	[Music Intro].
Janet Maltbie:	00:07	Hello and welcome to Boom radio. My name is Janet Maltbie. I'm an academic counselor here at Lorain County Community College and today we'll be talking with Dr. Kathy Head. She's been a professor here for 29 years, but she's also taught in the public schools. She is the coordinator for the Early Childhood Education Associates degree program. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and currently teaches five classes to include intro to Early Childhood Education. Welcome Kathy.
Dr. Kathy Head:	00:35	Thank you.
Janet Maltbie:	00:37	Almost 30 years of teaching.
Dr. Kathy Head:	00:38	It's a long time.
Janet Maltbie:	00:40	And how did you know that the teaching profession was right for you?
Dr. Kathy Head:	00:43	That's a good question. I, I guess I'm one of those few people that always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I never had a problem with trying to figure out what I wanted to do. I used to always play teaching when I was little. I loved school and I just knew that I wanted to do something in the schools.
Janet Maltbie:	01:02	Tell us a little bit about the Early Childhood Education program here. Uh, what does it prepare a person to do? What kind of job can a person reasonably expect to get after completing the program?
Dr. Kathy Head:	01:14	Okay. We have an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education, which is a two year program and it prepares students who complete this program to work with children birth through age five. We also have some short term technical certificates as well for people who aren't quite sure if they want to get the Associate degree or maybe they want to specialize in a specific area, but it prepares someone to work with children specifically birth through five, nothing past age five.

Janet Maltbie: [01:43](#) And so if a person wanted to do something past age five. What, what would they do here on the Lorain County campus?

Dr. Kathy Head: [01:50](#) What they would do, they would go into the transfer program and then transfer to a four year university.

Janet Maltbie: [01:55](#) So they can complete your program first and then go right on and and go to the transfer.

Dr. Kathy Head: [02:00](#) What I have a lot of students do is they know they want to teach, but they're not quite sure what age. So they would get the Associate degree in Early Childhood, go out and teach for a little bit, and then come back and take courses to get their bachelor's degree and then eventually end up teaching in the public schools.

Janet Maltbie: [02:17](#) And what's the program that we have here on this campus if they want to do that?

Dr. Kathy Head: [02:20](#) That would be Ashland university. And that is for anyone who wants to work public schools up to age. Well, I think they have a middle school as well, and they have Early Intervention. So we have an articulation agreement with Ashland.

Janet Maltbie: [02:36](#) Kathy, you've known a lot of teachers, you've known a lot of students. Uh, can we talk about the ones that stand out that are exceptional? What qualities do these exceptional teachers, these exceptional students have?

Dr. Kathy Head: [02:51](#) Well, those of us in the field, when we're looking at our students and seeing how they're preparing to be teachers, we call it the "IT" factor, which is very nebulous, but it's usually someone who you can tell in your classes is excited, they're enthusiastic, they're creative, and you can tell that they really, really want to be a teacher. They're committed to it and they look at it as a profession.

Janet Maltbie: [03:16](#) Do you feel like it's also, it's kind of like a calling?

Dr. Kathy Head: [03:22](#) I think so, but I think a lot of people also choose Early Childhood because they think it's easy because they babysat and then they said, wow, babysitting young children was easy. But it's a big difference between babysitting your neighbor's children and having a class of 20 three year olds and having to meet the State standards and making sure they're safe and having funds.

Janet Maltbie: [03:45](#) So complete this sentence. Great teachers are.

Dr. Kathy Head: [03:50](#) Committed to the profession. Professionalism is one thing that we talk a lot about because I think sometimes people don't look at early childhood as a profession. Uh, early childhood teachers need to have a sense of humor. They need to be a healthy, physically and mentally, energetic, creative.

Janet Maltbie: [04:10](#) All right, so let's talk about the flip side. Complete this sentence. You should not become a teacher, if.

Dr. Kathy Head: [04:17](#) I tell my students, don't become a teacher if you're doing it just because you want your summers off. Wrong reason to become a teacher. Don't become a teacher if you don't like children. Don't become a teacher if you think that all children are going to do everything you want them to do. Because I think sometimes students have all these creative ideas and they get in a classroom, but they have to deal with behavior issues, uh, parental issues and they get very frustrated.

Janet Maltbie: [04:48](#) It's not for everybody.

Dr. Kathy Head: [04:49](#) No, it's not

Janet Maltbie: [04:51](#) We are going to take a break. And when we come back, I'm going to ask Kathy what is the one thing a person can do if they think they want to become a teacher. My name is Janet Maltbie and this is Boom radio. The Boom is a student radio station on the campus of Lorain County Community College. The views and opinions expressed by the on air talent do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Lorain County Community College faculty and staff. Thank you for listening to college radio, heard round the world LCCC radio.com the Boom. Interested in becoming an educator. Listen to what students are saying about Kathy Head's class: Intro to Early Childhood Education.

Student #1: [05:34](#) I'm a preschool teacher, but I'm going to get, I want to get my bachelor's in Early Childhood Education through Ashland. And taking this class has taught me so much more eye opening experiences that I have no idea that was out there. Um, I've learned so much more that I incorporated it in to my preschool class so my kids get excited when Ms. Jessica comes back from school because there's something new that she's teaching them. Um, I've learned. So I have made friends here that didn't think I would have it 38 years old, going back to school after 20 years. Um, it was a challenge. You know, I was scared, didn't know if I could do it and I'd love it if this is my happy place. I love it.

Student #2: [06:10](#) She's very nice. Uh, one of the better teachers that I've had, she seems very passionate about the stuff that she teaches and it just comes off that way and makes it easier for you to absorb the information when someone cares about what you're teaching.

Janet Maltbie: [06:27](#) Welcome back. My name is Janet Maltbie and this is Boom radio. Kathy, thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. So what's the one thing that you'd recommend, um, a person could do if they think that teaching might be a good profession for them? You teach a class called intro to the education profession.

Dr. Kathy Head: [06:43](#) Right. Intro is not only the introductory class to the whole program, but it really lets the student know if this is what they want to do. And the reason for that is not only is it like every other college course, but in addition, they have to do field observations where they have to go out and they have to observe children in a classroom. They have to answer questions, they sometimes have to do lessons, so they have to do lesson plans. So they get to see what it's like to be a teacher before they commit to the whole program.

Janet Maltbie: [07:15](#) It's not just taking a class.

Dr. Kathy Head: [07:17](#) Right.

Janet Maltbie: [07:17](#) To actually get to be with the kids.

Dr. Kathy Head: [07:20](#) Right,

Janet Maltbie: [07:20](#) Right and be with a professional teacher.

Dr. Kathy Head: [07:22](#) Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [07:23](#) And, and it get to experience what it's like. And that's a good, good first step.

Dr. Kathy Head: [07:28](#) Right.

Janet Maltbie: [07:28](#) Okay. You have, there's another class, it's called uh, uh, intro to the education profession. How is that class different from yours?

Dr. Kathy Head: [07:37](#) Okay. That is a course that's an education course, not specifically in early childhood, but it is part of our degree. That is a course where students will put 30 to 35 hours in a public

school setting, so they won't be focusing on birth through five. They'll be focusing on kindergarten and up. So they come to the college for college classes, but then their field placement is in the public schools.

- Janet Maltbie: [08:02](#) Okay. So that might be a good class for someone that they're not sure what age group they might want to teach?
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:08](#) Correct.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:09](#) Okay.
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:09](#) Correct.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:10](#) Right. You teach a lot of classes here, five classes. What's the favorite class that you have to teach?
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:16](#) Probably the intro the foundations class because that is getting them when they first come to college. It's trying to get them excited. What I do in my intro class, I try to role model. I read children's books to them before class. I role model lesson plans. So I try to role model a preschool teacher in a classroom setting. So I try to bring that excitement. Hopefully they can see my excitement. So then they're excited.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:43](#) Students talk about students talk about you.
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:46](#) Oh,
- Janet Maltbie: [08:46](#) and they love your class.
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:48](#) Oh good. That's good to hear.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:50](#) I've never heard anybody say I just, I just, I just don't like that class.
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:55](#) Oh good.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:55](#) They come away excited.
- Dr. Kathy Head: [08:57](#) Good, then I met my goal.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:58](#) They want to do the next class?
- Dr. Kathy Head: [09:00](#) Good.

Janet Maltbie: [09:01](#) Um, I just think it's a wonderful thing. Your experience and your enthusiasm really, really shines through. Kathy, thanks so much.

Dr. Kathy Head: [09:09](#) Thank you.

Janet Maltbie: [09:09](#) For taking the time to be with me today. This is Boom radio. If you'd like more information on how to become a teacher at Lorain County Community College, please call (440) 366-4033. That number again is (440) 366-4033.

Music: [09:26](#) [Music]

Janet Maltbie: [09:33](#) Uh, I heard that Kathy had actually, does she read to you in this class?

Student #1: [09:38](#) She does indeed!

Janet Maltbie: [09:39](#) Tell me about that,

Student #1: [09:41](#) It's really kind of, it's kind of fun actually. We all just gather in like a little circle and do our own little like circle time and she reads like books to us and stuff and shows us what it's like to be a teacher, where you engage in the students or the kids and then uh, you get to see, uh, a little kids books. So it's like a little flash from the past kind of thing.

Dr. Kathy Head: [09:58](#) Brown bear. Brown bear. What do you see? I see a red bird looking at me.

Music: [10:04](#) [Music]

Janet Maltbie: [10:10](#) You've been listening to the career exploration podcast on LCCC radio.com the Boom. I'm Janet Maltbie. Next on our program I'll be speaking with Dr. Cathy Loboda who advises students who want to become educators, here on the Lorain County Community College campus and beyond. You won't want to miss it. We'll be right back.

Music: [10:30](#) [Music]

Janet Maltbie: [10:35](#) Welcome back. You are listening to Boom radio. My name is Janet Maltbie and I'm an academic counselor here at Lorain County Community College. Here in our station is special guest, Dr. Cathy Loboda. She's an academic advisor here at LCCC specializing in advising students who want to become educators. Cathy has served as a teacher for over 30 years in the preschool, elementary, high school and collegiate levels.

And she's had various licenses ranging from general education, English reading, Russian, drama and oral communications. She is presently retired from teaching but now serves students at LCCC as an academic advisor, helping them to start advance and plan a course for their career success. Welcome, Cathy.

Cathy Loboda: [11:22](#)

Thanks for having me.

Janet Maltbie: [11:24](#)

Over the years you've had a variety of licenses. Tell, tell us about that and how you got started and how you kept going.

Cathy Loboda: [11:31](#)

Well, I was raised by, um, an immigrant family who always believed in a Russian proverb that says, you live a hundred years, you learn a hundred years and you'll still die a fool. So I was raised to be a lifelong learner and because of that I just kept going and going. You get one licensure and you moved on to something else. Cause I had so many interests thought, well I find that make it count for something instead of just take random classes. So it served me well in the end.

Janet Maltbie: [12:01](#)

So it sounds like one thing led to another.

Cathy Loboda: [12:03](#)

Yes, absolutely.

Janet Maltbie: [12:04](#)

Okay. Was there a person in your life, um, that had a special impact on you and deciding to become a teacher? How did that start?

Cathy Loboda: [12:12](#)

I owe my life to a teacher. It was a high school teacher, Mr. Ronald Beckalar at Admiral King high school in Lorain. Um, who really took the time to know me and understand what I needed to really, really Excel. Um, I had difficulty speaking as a child and really didn't talk to anybody. And, um, he really brought me out of my shell and I really owe my life to him.

Janet Maltbie: [12:37](#)

How did he do that?

Cathy Loboda: [12:39](#)

I always wondered whether he had, uh, courses in speech pathology because there's a technique used for people with extreme stuttering to the point of being garbled. That if you put yourself in someone else's shoes, like you become a character, for example. So um, I did humorous, humorous declamation, um, as a speech, uh, performer and I became characters and then I realized that, Oh, I don't have to stutter. I guess I can be this person. And I finally in time again, I really came out of my shell.

Janet Maltbie: [13:15](#) Um, and I wondered did that lead to your degree? I mean your license in drama and interest in drama?

Cathy Loboda: [13:22](#) Absolutely. And speech, uh, oral communications was important because that's how I came into being the person I am now.

Janet Maltbie: [13:30](#) Wow. So it's kind of taking now something that may be an area of weakness and really kind of turning in, transforming into, into something that you really, I assume you enjoyed that.

Cathy Loboda: [13:42](#) Oh, I was so excited to just be able to communicate with people all those years. I kind of stayed within myself. I didn't know, I was an extrovert and I really am. So that really, really changed my life.

Janet Maltbie: [13:54](#) And how did you use that in the classroom? That experience?

Cathy Loboda: [13:59](#) I think as you begin to really know students as people, as individuals and realizing they're part of a learning community, but in essence they bring something to the table that you may not even understand because you don't know their backstory. And because of that, um, I think it really helped me to, um, take the time to see is there something that I need to know about that person to help them become better learners, to teach them how to think as in essence a good teachers teaching a child how to think. Things are always changing. Our world is always changing. So if you just box them into learning a certain skill and only that skill instead of knowing how to learn skills that limits them. So if you want to be limitless, you learn how to think and know yourself and know your weaknesses and know your learning preferences and all that is part of getting to know a student.

Janet Maltbie: [14:49](#) So you really, you had a whole classroom of kids but you really were looking at them as individuals.

Cathy Loboda: [14:57](#) Really contributors to our learning community. And I always stress we are a learning community and we all play roles and we have individual roles. So what are you bringing to our community?

Janet Maltbie: [15:07](#) How did you know that teaching was the right career for you?

Cathy Loboda: [15:12](#) That's strange. I think I always wanted to be a teacher. I always thought it's a calling instead of a profession. It was like a calling. Like my dolls would line up and I would be teaching and it was

weird cause I really didn't speak to other people, but when I was with my little dolls, my little students, I was really the teacher.

Janet Maltbie: [15:29](#) Okay. So even from a young age you were very interested in teaching. Okay. All right. We're going to take a short break and when we come back we'll be talking about transfer process and how maybe some common mistakes that Community College students make as they're starting their education here and maybe being interested in transferring to another college. This is LCCC radio.com.

Music: [15:54](#) [inaudible]

Janet Maltbie: [15:59](#) Hey guys, Janet Maltbie here. I wanted you to become aware of a program that could put money in your pocket. Each year LCCC gives away thousands of dollars to students who maintain 12 credits and a C average. It's called the Sail program. It's designed to help you complete your degree in three years or less. So if you receive a Pell grant already and find yourself paying out of pocket for things such as books, clothes, food, gas or general living expenses, don't take loans out to do that. The Sail program can put money back in your pocket. So take out your phone and call the following number today. (440) 366-4033. Ask for Matt Mercado today and tell him that Janet sent you. You'll receive a \$50 gift certificate from Giant Eagle the first month you complete the program and so much more

Music: [16:46](#) [Music]

Janet Maltbie: [16:55](#) And welcome back to the Boom. My name is Janet Maltbie and this is LCCC radio.com. We're speaking with our special guests, Dr. Cathy Loboda who specializes in advising students who want to become teachers. We're going to be talking about the transfer process, but before we do that, how do you advise students who are thinking about getting into the professions? What do you tell them?

Cathy Loboda: [17:18](#) Well, again, they come to me as individuals. So depending on their concerns and questions, that kind of drives my conversation with them. But I always think it's wise to, um, realize where your strengths are too. Do you like people? Do you have patients? Do you like change? Because there's never a day in a teacher that is the same as the previous day or the day to come.

Janet Maltbie: [17:41](#) Okay. So being able to adapt absolutely is really important. Have you seen that in, in your profession over the 30 years?

Have you experienced that seeing other teachers that were not willing or able to do that and how that impacted them?

- Cathy Loboda: [17:58](#) Yes, it is. It's discouraging. They become frustrated. Um, and as a mentor, cause I was a teacher mentor at one point in my career, um, really speaking about how to gain some patients where some might be land lacking, um, and to kind of have a map of what we can do to improve. And if that fails, then the frustration grows. And many times they leave the profession.
- Janet Maltbie: [18:23](#) Okay. So, um, let's talk about the transfer process. Okay. Because a lot of students that come here to Lorain County Community College are going to be transferring over to um, another college or university for their degree. Um, we do have a university partnership program. You want to talk a little bit about the university partnership program that we have here and then how a student might, um, transfer over to another college?
- Cathy Loboda: [18:49](#) We were really fortunate to have Ashland as our partnership. Ashland is known, um, among many as a very strong school for educators. Uh, a lot of the school systems know that they're well prepared. Um, and having them map out the two years in order to get to the four year degree and transfer over with year three and four is helpful. Um, it's well versed in, in liberal arts and it prepares the student, um, and that way. And it also introduced to some education classes that again would tell the student, am I really ready for this profession?
- Janet Maltbie: [19:26](#) That's not the only place that they can go. They can transfer to other colleges. Right. So what are some common mistakes that students make when they come to see you?
- Cathy Loboda: [19:34](#) I think the biggest mistake is not deciding where they're going to transfer to. It's like, I'm going to take a trip, but I don't know where I'm going. I need a map, but I don't know where I'm going. And Stephen Covey once said, um, in his leadership books begin with the end in mind. So if you don't know where you're headed, you don't know what they expect. Because every college has its own nuance as far as you know, how many math courses or their foreign language required. Um, and also with licensure it's varying so much and then the state always changes different things that are expected of our educators. So it's ever changing. So if you begin with no sense of where you're headed and with all the change that is in, you know, inherent in our, in our profession, then we just have issues that can come up.

Janet Maltbie: [20:24](#) Right? So you could potentially be taking a lot of classes here, um, or in a Community College that really would not count.

Cathy Loboda: [20:32](#) It counts as credit going in, but it doesn't apply to perhaps some of their requirements for graduation as an educator. And time and money is of essence for most of us if not all of us. So absolutely. If you have even a sense of colleges you're considering, that would be helpful.

Janet Maltbie: [20:49](#) Good. Okay. And, and how do you play a role in that? How can you help students here?

Cathy Loboda: [20:55](#) As far as transferring? We try in our department, um, with our education team to keep up with the local universities that, you know, would probably be getting our transfer students as far as what their expectations are. And then we share that with students as they start to say, Hey, I'm thinking about Bowling Green or Kent, um, private schools are different always, but we still try our best to keep up with them as well.

Janet Maltbie: [21:20](#) So you could really help a student, like avoid making a mistake, like taking the wrong classes for like a semester or two and you're helping them choose the right classes that would potentially transfer over to that four year college or university.

Cathy Loboda: [21:39](#) To the best of a knowledge. For example, uh, just recently the state changed the grade bands for, you know, pre K three is now pre K five. Well, that means you need an added math. So what do we know that last year now? But we know now that we need the, for on our end math 162 for that license. So that's why keeping a good communication line open between advisors and um, and student is so important.

Janet Maltbie: [22:06](#) aRight here on this campus or any Community College that you happen to be.

Cathy Loboda: [22:09](#) at Community College. And also when you get to the four year institution that as well.

Janet Maltbie: [22:14](#) Right? All right. If you'd like to have more information on how to become a teacher through Lorain County Community College, please call (440) 366-4033 and make an appointment to see Dr. Cathy Loboda or an education advisor. That number again is (440) 366-4033. Cathy, thanks so much for coming in and speaking with us today.

Cathy Loboda: [22:37](#) Happy to be here.

Janet Maltbie:

[22:38](#)

It's been a real pleasure. You're listening to the Boom
radio@LCCCradio.com and my name is Janet Maltbie.

Music:

[22:45](#)

[Music].