

BYU 150 Story – Brad Taylor – August 30, 2025

I was not a gifted student. When I entered the BYU MBA program in 1984, it was full of extremely bright students, most of whom had already received a business degree in their undergrad studies. I was coming out of a Psychology program and struggled by comparison. After my first MBA semester, an academic board warned me that I would need to do much better or face expulsion. I was panicked and even in tears as I told my new bride of four months about my situation. It felt like my future was crumbling before my eyes.

But through the goodness students, faculty and others I received invaluable tutoring, mentoring and encouragement. An extraordinary BYU Alumni, Jack Zenger, gave me an internship opportunity in CA. Another BYU alum, Jim Galovan, took a big chance on hiring me into a prestigious HR program at General Mills Inc. in MN. His mentoring and the help of other BYU alum's helped to me learn and eventually thrive. I have lived the rest of my life in deep gratitude and I committed to God that I would do my best to give back to BYU and BYU students in every way I could.

In my early career days, President Gordon B. Hinckley spoke to brethren of the priesthood as follows:

“A person out of work is of special moment to the Church. The Church cannot hope to save a man on Sunday if during the week it is a complacent witness to the crucifixion of his soul.”

“People who help others with employment, show love by helping those in need, restoring human dignity, opening doors for those who can't do so for themselves, helping your brother to reach his full potential

These words penetrated my heart deeply and felt as though they were directed specifically to me as an HR professional. to dedicate my career to helping others in need of employment.

As I grew and advanced upward in my career, and in my church leadership service, I was able to advocate for General Mills to start recruiting at BYU in Human Resources, Food Science, Marketing, Supply Chain, Finance, Accounting, and various engineering disciplines. With the advent of the internet, I worked hard to make LinkedIn a core career networking tool for BYU and it paid tremendous dividends as we were able to more powerfully leverage the power of both the world wide web, and the worldwide BYU Alumni Network. There are many sweet individual stories, but on a macro scale, I've been able to help recruit and place well over 1000 BYU graduates into good employment at General Mills and many other great corporations

This has been a lifelong mission and an immeasurable joy in my life.