

I began BYU as a transfer student and experienced difficulties surrounding high hour policies and navigating life at a large university. I was shy, lonely, and unsure of myself. Sadly, I also encountered some poor advisement. Fast forward through graduation, a mission, my first full-time job, two master's degrees, and then becoming an Academic Advisor. Those difficult experiences as an undergraduate and my BYU & KSU master's degrees have guided my interactions with my students. Just last week, I shared something I'd learned in my MPA program with a student helping him with a situation he was struggling with. I feel empathy for what students are going through and rejoice in their successes.

President Reese talked about the surprising number of lonely students on campus. A belonging activity was held in November of 2024 which included hot chocolate and large marshmallows. Walking into work for a few months following the activity, I observed and documented a marshmallow that went unnoticed. A humorous and inspirational story about changing our circumstances and positively impacting others began to develop. My hope is to share it with the campus community to empower my readers to let their light bless others in the world.