

Staff Spotlight Series:

5 questions with Ken Cole.

1. What is your role at USC Lancaster, and how long have you worked here? I am the Director of Financial Aid, and I have been working here for 12 years.

2. Where did you go to college, and what attracted you to the education field? College of Charleston. I was a Biology major for 3 ½ years with a minor in Theatre. I started working in Financial Aid, got married, had a child and realized that the type of biology work I wanted to do didn't fit in with my family plans. I changed my major to Theatre so I could finish my degree quickly. I have been working in Financial Aid ever since. I'm still planning to complete my Master's Degree.

3. What is your favorite thing about USC Lancaster? The teamwork of our faculty and staff. We all care so much about the success of our students and work very closely to help them achieve that success.

4. What are your hobbies/interests? My life is pretty much devoted to my kids (I have 4) and my church right now. I coach my kids' soccer team. I help out with boy scouts and enjoy camping and hiking. I'm a deacon at my church, finance committee chair, and do the videos and slides during morning worship. Personally I love reading, especially fantasy fiction (I'm a Tolkien fanatic), and I'm an "old school gaming geek." I grew up playing Dungeons and Dragons and am happy to see it has made a comeback. My wife and I love bingeing series on Netflix and just hanging out in bookstores, when we can get free time away from the kids. I also love my professional associates and spent many years heavily involved in those. I was President of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and have served in many other capacities in that and other associations.

5. What advice would you give current students or prospective students? Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." You should always have a plan. However, the famed general Helmuth Von Moltke is quoted as saying "No battle plan survives contact with the enemy." The point is, you should set goals and have a plan to achieve them, but not be surprised when something unexpected happens. Be prepared to change your plan. The key to success is adapting. Know where you're going. Set your course. Follow it. When life puts roadblocks in your way, don't turn back and don't waste effort fighting through them. Just find the best way around and keep moving towards your destination.



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