

The Advocate

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New West College Student's Life Changed

By Their Teacher's Choice of Guest Lecturer...

When Jackie was taking my Employment Prep class at the Community College, I had a hunch she was struggling with some gender stuff. At the time Jackie was wearing dresses but she told me this was what her parents insisted on. She said she wanted to wear baggy jeans, sports team jerseys, and baseball caps.

"I had a hunch she was struggling..."

We'd chat sometimes after class. I spent a lot of time just listening. Eventually she told me that she wished she was a boy, and she was sad it wasn't possible.

One guest lecturer that year was Mike - a trans man who came



Jackie, with Teacher Amy Tsu, 2009

to talk to us about the automotive industry. Before class, I told him about Jackie and asked if he'd be ok to talk about being trans, if it ever came up. He said yes.

Jackie was really into cars, so she stayed after class that day to chat with us and ask more questions. She told Mike that he was cool, and that she wished she could be a cool guy too. *(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) Mike casually replied that when he was young he also had to wear dresses and do things his parents expected girls to do, and he didn't feel like



“Jackie was totally fascinated...”

it was right for him, so when he was older he transitioned from female to male.

Jackie was totally fascinated. It was pretty clear she'd never heard of this before. She asked Mike a million questions. They must have chatted for an hour after class.

That was five years ago. I ran into Jackie this morning on the way to college. Nowadays, he works at an auto repair shop, wears baggy jeans, sports team jerseys, ball caps, and is rocking a hipster goatee.

*Have a story about a great advocate?
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