

In Celebration of Our Friend and Copyeditor's Long-Lasting Service For the International Journal of Multicultural Education

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When the current Editor-in-Chief, Professor Soon-Yong Pak, asked me to write a tribute to Dr. Linda Stine, the retiring International Journal of Multicultural Education (IJME) copyeditor, I did not hesitate to say, "Yes." It was not only because I had the longest working relationship with her as an editorial staff volunteer until I retired as the IJME Editor-in-Chief in 2018, but also because Linda had said "Yes" to me twice without hesitation.

Our journey of collaboration began unexpectedly. It all started with my moving into a new neighborhood. I never expected to find an English writing professor as my new neighbor. We, two academic women, bonded immediately. Over many walks, shared meals, and even tennis matches, we talked about life in academe, motherhood, politics, and travels. She has been my personal editor for three books and many more journal articles I have written since our first blessed encounter. For so long, I have personally and professionally benefited from her encouragement, care, unwavering support, social conscientization, justful anger for the unjust world, US cultural and political lessons, and global travel musings.

When the copyediting position at Electronic Magazine of Multicultural Education (EMME) was vacated by our first volunteer academic copyeditor, I struggled to find a qualified replacement. Open-access publishing is not for everyone, particularly for a platinum open-access journal (neither publishing fees to authors nor subscription fees to users) run by volunteer academics. It requires personal and professional sacrifices over many unaccounted hours of labor so that current high-quality scholarship could be shared freely with the world to advance educational equity for all. Linda first said "Yes" to the copyediting challenge with EMME in 2004 and later affirmed her rededication to copyediting for IJME in 2007. I never expected her volunteer service to stretch over 15 years. Perhaps she was not, either! She has even outlived my tenure as the founding editor-in-chief of the journals and her own professorial career as an English writing professor. During her service as the copyeditor of EMME/IJME for 17 years, she has copyedited over 400 pieces steadily and faithfully.

My sincere thank-you and a big bow to you, Linda, for having said "Yes" twice without hesitation! Well done, good and faithful servant and friend! I, along with editors, authors, readers, and reviewers of IJME, want to express our deepest gratitude for your long-lasting journey with EMME/IJME and self-giving service to open-access publishing. Those who read and cite your copyedited works will know that serving others to make the world a better place is a costly but worthy endeavor. You certainly have done your share in making this world a better place. I'm pleased to know that this model of blending the personal with the professional has worked for our long-lasting collaboration.