

The editorial team of the *Journal of Prison Education Research* is mourning the loss of our beloved editor, **Dr. Helen Farley**, who passed away in July.

Helen, affectionately described by another JoPER editor, had “the ability to do the work of ten people, while still smiling and helping others”. Her contributions to this journal were invaluable and will have a lasting impact on our publications, our partnerships, and our editorial team. Helen dedicated her time, effort, and love to this journal in so many ways, and we will forever be grateful for her work. She leaves a lasting mark on the work we do, and her contribution will not be forgotten.

However, her work for us was just a tiny part of what she did. Helen was passionate about the ability of prison education to change lives and worked tirelessly, always with love and compassion, to improve education in prisons across the globe. To honor her legacy, the editorial team is releasing part of an anonymized note, written to Helen shortly before her passing, that beautifully illustrates the far-reaching impact of her dedication and commitment:

Dear Helen,

...

Back in 2014, while I was in prison, I began my higher education journey through [the prison's education program]. Because of your work and your commitment to education in prisons, I was able to study engineering and begin to change my life. I know I'm not alone in this – many others have walked a similar path because of the opportunities you created, in a place where the only thing we could control was our future.

It's been nearly a decade since my release, and there have been many ups and downs, as I've dealt with PTSD and focused on using my experiences to make the world a better place. I worked as an engineer for a defence company, and when the company was hacked, I fell into cyber security by accident and ended up as the global head of IT. It sounds impressive, but mostly it was a whirlwind that helped me realise I could turn all my experiences – good, bad, free, incarcerated – into a unique perspective that I could use to help others.

Since then, I've regained high-level security clearances and have worked across Defence and with intelligence agencies, sharing what I've learned as a former soldier, a former prisoner, and an engineer. Because of your work, I have trained hundreds of soldiers to counter advanced cyber threats, coordinated multinational cyber exercises, and ... I expect it will have a positive, lasting impact.

None of this would have happened if [the education program] hadn't been there at [the prison], and if you hadn't been there, driving that program with your commitment and belief in the power of education to change lives.

This is a long way of saying: thank you, Helen. The impact you've had cannot be measured, and I am forever grateful.

Rest in peace, Helen, your legacy lives on.