

IN MEMORIAM

A TRIBUTE TO MARK "KBECK" KILLINGBECK



Mark "KBECK" Killingbeck, M.A. (1971–2022) entered into the education community after gaining his Master's in both Education and Spanish in 2009. He then worked as a Spanish teacher at McNeil High School in Round Rock, Texas, until 2019. In 2020, KBECK joined our community as part of the incoming cohort for the Texas

State University Developmental Education Doctoral Program. During this time, he served as a doctoral research assistant and editorial assistant with our J-CASP team.

KBECK's goals were as extravagant as his personality. He wished to create a textbook filled with developmental education pedagogy to guide the literacy development of Spanish-speaking English language learners. Through creating a textbook and by using his research to advocate for policy changes, KBECK hoped to reduce the opportunity gap that many English language learners face. This passion was informed by his experiences teaching Spanish literacy and mathematics in Irapuato, Mexico, after being awarded a grant through Brigham Young University's David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies.

All people were welcome in his life, as well as his home. Visitors would be met with the great loves of KBECK's life—food, art, music, photo albums, and his husband, Jon Alter, who he married in 2015. In addition to sharing his passions, KBECK simply wanted to make a difference in the world. In the words of his husband, he wanted to leave the world a better place than he found it. Though we all mourn his loss of our friend and colleague, we can all be certain he did indeed leave the world better than he found it because of all the things he accomplished in his life.

To honor this desire, we ask that you consider leaving a donation with [Hospice Austin](https://www.hospiceaustin.org/), who dutifully gave care and assistance to KBECK during his final months.

—Jonathan Lollar

"I Deserve It" by Madonna

This guy was meant for me
And I was meant for him
This guy was dreamt for me
And I was dreamt for him

This guy has danced for me
And I have danced for him
This guy has cried for me
And I have cried for him

Many miles, many roads I have traveled
Fallen down on the way
Many hearts, many years have unraveled
Leading up to today

This guy has prayed for me
And I have prayed for him
This guy was made for me
And I was made for him

Many miles, many roads I have traveled
Fallen down on the way
Many hearts, many years have unraveled
Leading up to today

I have no regrets
There's nothing to forget
All the pain was worth it

Not running from the past

I tried to do what's best
I know that I deserve it

Many miles, many roads I have traveled
Fallen down on the way

Many hearts, many years have unraveled
Leading up to today

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