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First Person: Lynn Brewer, Enron Whistle Blower

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Lynn Brewer

By [Jay Hermacinski](#)
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The woman responsible for blowing the whistle on Enron spoke to students at IU's Kelley School of Business. Lynn Brewer worked for Enron for close to three years before she went public with the company's corrupt business practices.

Brewer's decision to blow the whistle on Enron resulted in thousands of employees losing their jobs and billions of dollars in pension plan money disappearing. She says she recognized problems soon after she started at the company.

"Within about six months I discovered bank fraud to the tune of a quarter of a billion dollars. When I went to my supervisor and said we have a problem, she said what is that and I said the gas securing this loan that Enron had taken out, that gas doesn't exist," Brewer said.

"I was learning a lot about what the corporation wasn't. It was not about respect, integrity, communication and excellence as it had represented itself to be."

"There were a lot of weighty decisions when I found out they were manipulating the power markets. If you blow the whistle on that industry, the entire industry could collapse," she said.

"I questioned myself. 'What if I'm wrong? I'm going to get fired, have false claims or some kind of lawsuit on my hands from Enron.'"

"And I would love to say I'm not greedy, but I revealed in myself things I wasn't proud of and a lot of that had to do with the outside influence of greed," Brewer recalled.

"When you have people like myself who are being enriched with massive amounts of money - some days I'm making \$20,000, \$30,000 off stock options and I'm choosing to look the other way."

"It's like being next to the bank, seeing the bank robber go in and then just sitting there and drive off."

"When I discovered Jeff Skilling was involved in falsifying the numbers directly, he was changing numbers, that was the first thing. The second thing is I was diagnosed with pre-breast cancer and I had an 86 percent chance of cancer within five years and the doctor said you need to get rid of the stress in your life. I said I'm not going to die for Enron," Brewer said.

Brewer says she sat down with Enron founder Ken Lay two weeks before he died. She says even after Lay had been tried and convicted he still couldn't grasp how pervasive the corruption was throughout the company.



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