

Inspiring Educators to Inspire Students

The best way to recruit students to pursue a teaching career is to honor those we have now, instill school pride, and build a community that students want to return to and raise their families. Teaching is both a challenging and rewarding profession. Being a child of an educator, I know that my mom loves her career because she loves her community and wants to make a difference. However, I'm also aware that teaching can be a thankless job. Teachers put in hours of work during, before, and after school begins. From lesson planning to being there for students, teachers are some of the most hardworking members of society. To start the recruitment process, we need to show appreciation to the current educators, for when they feel appreciated, they will feel joy, and that will pass on to students.

My teachers have wholly enriched my experience as a student. From preschool to senior year, I have had superb teachers. The one who has had the most significant impact on me was one of my math teachers. Her name was Mrs. Pearson. Not only was she brilliant, but she had high expectations. She not only expected excellence, she demanded it. I continue to push myself because she instilled a mindset of striving for excellence. Her desire to see students succeed is inspiring. We need to honor these teachers that push their students to greater heights. Through acknowledging their hard work and dedication and genuinely showing teachers in a good light, we can show that teaching is a profession worth pursuing.

Teachers build a community and school pride. They have the power to create warm, inviting, and safe environments. Within the classroom, a teacher can instill a sense of self-pride and school pride that encourages students throughout their schooling and inspires fond memories that bring them back to their communities and schools. Through putting on parades to door decorating for Christmas to participating and encouraging participation in pep rallies, teachers create a mindset and environment where kids enjoy school while also learning. This sense of community and encouraging people to come home is why I believe supporting our current educators will help inspire and recruit their students to follow in their footsteps.

There are so many qualities that make a good teacher. Strong, encouraging, kind, and full of high expectations are just a few of the essential attributes a teacher exhibits. Many teachers have encouraged me to reach for something I thought was impossible, such as my English 1 teacher during my freshman year of high school. She made a deal with all her students that she would buy them a small gift if they managed to make a perfect score on their reading ACT. While this may seem inconsequential to some, it gave me a goal to reach. Though I didn't get the gift that year, I used what that teacher taught me and eventually got the coveted score. When I got my score back, the fond memories came rushing to mind. The end goal for a teacher is to make an impression on students and impact them in a positive manner months and years down the line.

Education is one of the most indispensable careers because educators help bring about all other careers. Without a teacher to stoke a student's interest in reading, we would be without writers, journalists, and many other professions. Without a teacher to support a student's

curiosity for science, the medical field would suffer. Recruiting high-quality teachers is vital to a school, but we must start at the root. We must begin by honoring and supporting those educators working in the field. Building a solid sense of community and school spirit is essential to teachers feeling happy, supported, and valued, which translates to inspired educators. An inspired educator will make school fun and rewarding for a student, generating memories that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. A positive environment will draw freshly graduated students to the profession when there is so much darkness in the world. In short, inspired educators who feel pride in their careers will inspire future generations to become educators.