

# Why Teachers in WNC Continue to Teach

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Teachers all over America continue to teach because they inherently believe that all children are deserving of a quality, equitable, well-rounded education regardless of nationality, religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, giftedness, or skill.

Teachers believe that they can build relationships with and among students by fostering a classroom climate that is inclusive and promotes academic, social, emotional, and physical growth. Teachers know that students want to engage in a learning community, they want to cooperate and work with others, they want to belong, they want to problem solve, and they want to create.

Because of that, teachers understand that it is imperative to create a classroom culture of success that supports inquiry. Teachers encourage students to consider a variety of viewpoints, assess their own beliefs and values, and to think critically about social, economic, political, scientific, and literary issues.

Teachers promote academic discourse that connects the curriculum to broader questions concerning humanity and current social trends and issues. Teachers embrace diversity and teach their students that finding beauty in the cultural traditions of others in no way diminishes the beauty in their own.

Teachers show compassion and kindness to every student on a daily basis not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because they realize that every student is of inestimable value and every student's story matters.

Teachers know that by personally investing in their students that they will grow students who continue to invest in themselves, others, and the world around them. Teachers recognize the importance of teaching their students that they are all connected and that they each have infinite potential to positively impact others.

More importantly, teachers teach their students through example that they each have a human obligation to speak up when they see evidence of injustice. Teachers continue to give of themselves regardless of pay raises, stipends, planning time, resources, or funding because the greatest resource they have are the students they teach. Teachers acknowledge that all students deserve their undivided, focused, time and attention.

Teachers understand that too many of their students are dealing with poverty, depression, addiction, homelessness, abuse, or trauma. Teachers recognize that every student has a unique home situation that may or may not be conducive to learning, and because of that many teachers become more than just teachers to their students.

Finally, the teachers of this country continue to teach because they understand that kindness, compassion, and empathy must be at the heart of what they do daily, and that they must fight against an education system that tells them that the quality of their instruction or the potential of a child is measured by a test score.

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