

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... But the world maybe different because I was important in the life of a child." - Kathy Davis

Upon reading this quote I could not help but feel as though this was the whole reason behind my decision to pursue a career in education. All my life I have taken joy in helping others to succeed and it has always brought me joy to make an impact on the lives of others. I have never cared about getting anything in return, just that I have made a difference, may be brightened someone's day. To me, this is exactly what teaching is all about. I look at a future career as a teacher as a way to make the world a better place, to influence the lives of my future students in the most positive way possible. Being successful in life does not mean having material items, but making an impression on the people around you and feeling as though you have accomplished something great. I believe that the best method for being a successful and influential teacher is being compassionate not only about your content, but also, more importantly, for your students.

All my life I have been very passionate about working with others, especially children. Working with young children has taught me to appreciate the things I have in my life and has been such a rewarding experience. I have been blessed enough to have had the opportunity to work with children in many different environments. My experiences as a camp counselor and staff member, a "big" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and a volunteer for the Special Olympics, have inspired me greatly to become a teacher. I have always been very enthusiastic about becoming a teacher; the only problem was deciding which field was best for my interests. Narrowing down the choices of what to teach was the only problem.

I realize now that working with children is my calling. Helping to shape and mold children into better-rounded individuals is something I feel is part of the responsibility we have as educators. Teaching them life lessons and leading them towards a bright future is what makes me all the more passionate about becoming a teacher. I have always said that the most important thing to me is not being remembered by what I have, but by the things I've done. Working with children makes this dream a reality for me. I love knowing that I have made a positive impact in someone's life.

The thing that attracted me to the teaching profession is the ambition of being able to make that impact on not only one life, but the lives of many different children. This is such a wonderful and rewarding feeling. There are so many people in my life that have led me towards these beliefs and that have helped draw me into the teaching profession. I am fortunate to have been taught by some very amazing teachers in the past; teachers that made an impact on my life. I hope to some day aspire to have that amount of influence and impact in the lives of my future students, I want to be the teacher they come to for advice and words of encouragement.

The qualities that made these teachers so influential in my life were the compassion they had for not only their content, but for their students and the enthusiasm they had for teaching. The best example would be my high school home economics and textiles teacher. She was very easy to relate to and learn from. It was apparent how she cared for her students and loved teaching by the enthusiasm and creativity she presented in the classroom. I found her to be not only a teacher, but also someone I could turn to for advice and words of encouragement. She created an environment that I hope to someday replicate in my own classroom.

The quote that opened this paper, to me, is the single most important idea behind teaching and one I will often refer to as a guide towards my goals as a future educator. It shows how life isn't about the things you have, but the things you do and the impressions you leave. I believe that my life experiences and the people I have been fortunate enough to have in my life, have blessed me and led me down a path towards a career that will not only make me happy, but will help others succeed as well.