

Speaker Notes – UMSL Graduation –College of Education

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Graduates Stand...

Say your name with Pride....

Take your arms and wrap them around your chest...

A repeat of me...1, 2, 3 “I love me”

You have just experienced one of our most important responsibilities as educators... A step towards enhancing Self Confidence in your future students.

Your profession is noble, honorable, unselfish, humble, yet demanding, and rewarding. Each day of your professional life you will become an advocate for children. You will provide the best educational services for children with fidelity, some children in most of our education settings cannot wait.

I and your future students who will become teachers, lawyers, construction workers, nurses, and police officers, acknowledge and thank you for choosing Education as a profession. You have decided on a profession where you are responsible for caring, educating, and influencing a guardian, mother and father, grandmother, great grandparents, single mothers, single fathers, and two mothers, two fathers, adoption or Foster parents' most precious commodity, their children.

Have you noticed I described a variety of family structures, you will encounter as a teacher of children?

Teaching and the education profession (administrator, counselors, and directors) is not a privilege, not given, but a Calling. You are Saving Children's lives. I call it calling because if we truly put children first, you and I will behave uncomfortably when we put children first and mean it.

Make yourself big...was the only play she had (Personal Story)

As the opportunity gap continues to widen within communities of color and rural communities, how do we bring our all to our roles knowing that we can save our children's lives? We must continue to show up, educate, and model for our students who are coming to our doorsteps with heightened needs. Demonstrating citizenship, establishing connections with our families and with one another as colleagues, and most importantly remaining diligent in the face of insurmountable challenges related to academic outcomes. Educators more than ever, you must take care of yourself and take time for yourself... To do this job you must be mentally and physically healthy.

No matter what school district you choose to serve there is an opportunity gap. In high-income communities there exist a diversity gap. Due to social media, and

technology, the world is global we are no longer in a place where we do not see someone who doesn't look like you, live like you, worship like you, or love like you. Are you in the mindset to teach all students, even those who do not look like you, think like you, worship like you, love like you, or even live like you? Are you prepared?

1. I taught in a rural area... Personal Story

Parents:

My parents were educators and degreed people... they knew what to do and completed my FAFSA and applications... Every student child does not have that privilege and environment. Educators, we become their school parents, are you prepared for that?

Relationships:

Define what Relationships meant to you. We are encouraged to build a relationship with children and students...Define your relationship.

Our students have many friends...

Our students require positive role models and consistent adults in their lives.

Teach them well – Lead them Well –Role Model for them Well- Hold them Accountable Well

You have the right to accept student's best

You have the right to challenge their thinking by asking questions. Discuss and share evidence for your thinking, What if the mother in the story live in the 1950s as opposed to 2022 what expectations would she have for her daughter

You have the right to expect them to report to class on time

You have the right to correct their grammar and speech

You have the right to respect each student

You have the right to expect respect from each student

You have the right to increase their critical and strategic thinking

You have the right to expect critical and strategic thinking from your students.

You have the right role model of kindness and respectful behavior

You have the right to correct challenging behavior because you preparing for the next level- rather it is the next grade span or the world of work

You have the right to create females math superstars

You have the right to create and encourage “underestimated youth” to become producers rather than consumers.

Graduates, Please Stand... After I ask the question, please respond, Yes I can.

Do you believe you save 1 up to 100 plus lives

Do you believe you can encourage and teach a Hispanic female to become the next top surgeon at Barnes Jewish Hospital?

Do you believe you can encourage and teach a White Female to become the next Police Chief in the St. Louis area?

Do you believe you can encourage and teach support a male from any racial background to become a fashion designer?

Do you believe you can provide a safe and supportive place for a Gay student?

Do you believe you encourage and teach a student with a learning disability in reading to become a well-known author?