Leadership Council Chronicle

May 2022



Why We Should Treat School Like a Job—In a Good Way How is school like a job? It sounds like a riddle, but there's a simple

answer. What employees need to thrive at work is the same as what students need to thrive in school: They need to feel like someone cares about them, and they need to be engaged. **Engagement and Hope, Defined**

Gallup, a well-known research organization, defines student

engagement as "the involvement in and enthusiasm for school." They define student hope as "the ideas and energy students have for the future." They measure the level of engagement and hope by asking students to

rate their level of agreement with statements such as, "My school is

committed to building the strengths of each student," and "I have at

least one teacher who makes me excited about the future." Students who "strongly agree" that their school is committed to building the strengths of each student and that there is at least

one teacher who makes them excited about the future are 30 times more likely to be engaged at school compared with students who strongly disagree.

Becoming a Teacher?

Thinking about

We are enrolling new students for the fall 2022 semester.

Call Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director, UNC Center for Urban Education, at 303-637-4334 or <u>email</u> for more information.

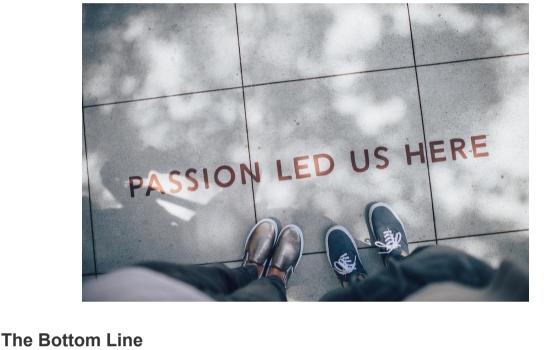
Watch our short video to

learn more about the CUE teacher-preparation program.

strengths and having the opportunity to use their strengths and do what they do best every day. Here are the measures as presented to students: At this school, I get to do what I do best every day.

Gallup uses a total of nine measures of engagement. The first depends on identifying and focusing on

- My teachers make me feel my schoolwork is important.
- · I feel safe in this school.
- · I have fun at school.
- I have a best friend at school.
- In the last seven days, someone has told me I have done good work at school. In the last seven days, I have learned something interesting at school.
- The adults at my school care about me. • I have at least one teacher who makes me excited about the future.



"specific actions that increase student engagement and hope." They recommend implementing your own student poll to start the process.

Changing the culture is an intensive process and requires a sustained effort, Gallup readily admits. But if you focus on the outcome—students who are prepared for and have hope for their future—it's worth every ounce of energy you put into it. Interested in learning more? Gallup has additional

Gallup asserts that schools should take the opportunity to proactively build a positive culture through

recommendations about how to keep kids excited about school. At the Center for Urban Education, we value high levels of student engagement. Our mentors and professors continuously work to ensure that our teacher candidates have a high level of hope for their future.



With the award-winning curriculum from Project WILD and Flying

WILD, CUE professors Jessica Feld and Brandon Grossman tied environmental education topics to what students were learning in their





classrooms. Participants also

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Director, Center for Urban Education **UNC Denver Center at Lowry** 1059 Alton Way

Contact Us

Rosanne Fulton, PhD

Denver CO 80230 Office: 303-637-4334 rosanne.fulton@unco.edu www.unco.edu/UrbanEd

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