

In a time when budget cuts, threaten the financial stability of our education system, educators must be creative, positive and open to new, alternative ways of performing the great task of educating our future. These cuts force teachers, administrators, and superintendents to continue to raise the standards of education, with fewer resources. While the task seems too great at times, it is vital to the success of our students to work together to perform this unbelievably daunting task. Together, we must find ways to continue to drive the education system forward, and the first step is to raise the standards for ourselves. So my message to fellow educators is unite in order to grow together, as an educational community!

Be creative in your approach to your teaching. Never stop questioning your profession, testing new innovative ideas and reflecting on those results. Action research, within your classroom, often times, requires no additional financial resources. Look towards other faculty members for support with this research, and share the findings among each other.

Be positive and open to learning. If professional development opportunities do not cross your path, seek opportunities yourself. Use grants, loan forgiveness programs and scholarships to better your education. Become a life-long learner, and share your enthusiasm with others. When you discover a strategy, technique or motivational tool that works well for students, share it! Build an entire support system around your school and do not hesitate to be proud of your accomplishments!

Understand that in order to expect students to love learning, we must also love learning ourselves. Learning will drive our nation to unknown destinations, but the lack of discovery will lead to a stagnate society. When we focus on the growth ourselves, the growth of the entire education system is inevitable, no matter what kind of circumstances surround us!

*“Teachers who inspire realize there will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how we use them.”*  
~Unknown Author