

ITHINK Faculty/Teacher Inspirational Assembly
Chad Furlong

Need the Waterbury paper to put on the wall with markers.
Bring candy- and a prize (candy)
Letter to self, to be mailed to them later.
Buy the Giving Tree

My personal background... Picture of family

I love the name of this conference! BOOST...

Icebreaker: Hallway Smarts for Teachers

Intro:

I know what you're thinking. We all walk into a workshop and think, "We have to be here. I've heard all this before." I hope this will be a bit different for you. I hope this session brings you back to why you entered education in the first place.

Together, we have tons of intelligence and experiences in this room. Lets pull together and create an amazing session!

Pass out letters and envelopes.

1. You matter.

?Who was your favorite teacher and why?

You are the hero's of our society! Besides the role of the family, you are the key to the success of future generations. The prices you paid to get here, the time you put in, your dedication, mental energy, how you hold the standard for our kids... Ever see those huge pillars holding up the Coronado bridge? That's what you are for our kids...

?As an educator, principal, or whatever, what roles do you have with the students?

You're not just in the education business, you're in the kid business. When you sign on to work with them, in their eyes you become a father figure that they may not have, a mother that they need, or maybe even just a leader in their life that will help them see their great potential. This can't be just a paycheck for us, it's got to be a **calling**...

For the teacher: You're good at what you do. You're here for a reason. It takes a huge heart to believe in today's young adults.

You are "game-changers" (Down by 2, Manny Ramirez comes up with 2 on-)

Story: A Teacher who knew she made a difference: JJ Barlow (This is the story of a woman I met who had a shaved head along with all of the ASB class that she led. Turns out, they we're supporting a kid in their school who had cancer.)

"They'll remember you for your creativity, and your abilities at your profession, but they'll never forget you because of your love."

We never know what our kids are walking through... They are like onions (Layer after layer of self-protection)

"You've got to feel it before you fix it."

Story: Mr. Linder changed my life.

"They'll remember you for your creativity, and your abilities at your profession, but they'll never forget you because of your love."

One of the biggest things we can do is "communicate warmth" every time we talk to them. (Recently I was at a school where a student came up to their teacher... "You're not going to pass my class. You know you're not going to be able to get it done!" Trying to joke with him, he was saying, "You don't have what it takes.")

Everything that you say to the child, is shaping them. Be careful *how* you communicate with them! Emphasize the positive!

Letter to self: My top three strengths, my top three loves, why I got into teaching in the first place...

2. They matter

What are some of the things students are going through when they walk into your classroom or school?

About 75% of marriages end in divorce. About 75% of them get remarried, and have a much higher rate of divorce after that-

Today's kids see right through the bs. They can read a fake immediately. They know if we don't care-

"They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

They can be pushy, disrespectful, frustrating, but they are all packed with solid potential.

Story: At a school yesterday where I met Colt. (Dance contest- His teacher started reaching out to him Freshman year. Today, he's a totally different kid.)

Choose to not see a group of people, but individual faces, with individual stories.

Story: Ryan's story. Don't forget what they are going through. Don't forget the incredible impact you have on their life!

Letter to self: Name the top three students you want to invest into. What specific thing do you see in each person that will help them to succeed? What are you going to tell them? What potential problem do you see you can help them work through?

3. Be creative

Let's talk about the competition. As educators, you compete with the other teaching/educating methods out there. It's a competition because companies are fighting for the "attention" of our kids. Their methods come from highly competitive markets where big dollars are invested in a huge market.

Illustration: Logos. What symbol is on Tiger Wood's golf ball? Who knew that a caveman could sell life insurance? When you hear "priceless" what do you think of (American Express)? VW commercials (when the guy licked the handle). Remember "Where's the beef?" Wendys.

Slides

We compete with them for the hearts of our young people! Don't just present material in the classroom, but through an experience, create memories in the classroom. Tenured teachers, be relevant!

Story: The teacher with his young student ("All I want is air. I just want air.")

Story: Nicole: In class the teacher asked, "Write a detailed explanation of how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich." They wrote, then he brought out the materials...

?What are some creative things you experienced in class growing up?

Groups: Break into groups and brainstorm creative ideas to better connect with your kids.

Write: List your top three creative ideas on the sheet near you. Choose a person to represent the group.

Share: What are some of the creative things you came up with?

Letter to self: Write your favorite creative ideas that you can implement into your classroom. Close your letter with a statement to yourself, giving final words of advice or encouragement.

Seal it up. Address it. And, pass it in.

Conclusion:

Remember, you are the Mr. Linder to so many of your students! Learn to do more than believe in your students. Learn to LOVE them.

Teachers: End with the teachers writing a letter to themselves. Write down a handful of students that they are going to go after this year and hopefully pull out the best they have inside them. They will list a few of their goals.

Great Ending: The Giving Tree