

Veronica Tigert
EDUC 352, Applied Inquiry 1
Dr. R. Hallett
Oct. 15, 2014

My Research Interests

Educators have the power to change lives by caring deeply for every child, by helping students to visualize their capacity for greatness, and by simultaneously providing rigorous learning experiences. I have held various positions allowing me to explore how educators can help students develop the grit they need to be successful in school and in life. My research interests center on ideas related to academic resiliency, a growth mindset, and the role of educators in fostering these.

Last year I began a journey with a senior student. I questioned how he continued to have resiliency even though academics appeared to be difficult for him. When hearing his personal stories of struggling to learn and coping with his mom's cancer since he was a young boy, I wondered how he made it this far. As a senior who still had not passed the high school exit exam, I was in awe that he continued to come to classes and not drop out. He had resiliency and showed a tremendous amount of courage when faced with obstacles. How do we foster this type of resiliency in all students? How do we allow students to falter and even fail but show them how to re-engage with school? How does building academic resiliency become part of the school culture?

This young man and I worked together to address some of his gaps in learning, and he finally passed the high school exam. He would tell me, "Ms. Tigert, nobody ever help me like you do." At a pivotal point in his life where his resiliency was failing, I question who would have stepped up for him if I had not.