



# EMPOWERING EDUCATORS TO **TRANSFORM LIVES**

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Educators of Prosperity embrace and value student backgrounds, interests, and experiences. They see what students bring to the table as assets and not deficits.

Educators of Prosperity understand the importance of including student lives and perspectives in teaching—not only in certain months or around certain holidays—but every single day. They recognize that this attention to students, and value in their gifts, fosters inclusion, respect, and empowerment.

***“I’ll tell you what my teacher did for me. She believed in me so much that she tricked me into believing in myself.” - Dr. Victor Rios***

The more you can engage with students and not let them silently pass through your classroom, the better. Remember that engaging with students does not mean calling on students publicly with popsicle sticks. Engaging with students means creating a safe time for a human-to-human conversation. Help students to see they have a unique view or gift for seeing something different from the rest.

## **Tips for Embracing Student Stories and Talents**

Get to know your students and let them get to know you. Conduct interest surveys and interviews. Use the information you learn to incorporate student interests and lives into daily interactions.

Students deserve to be empowered and have agency in their learning. This happens through courageous conversations, positive one-on-one interactions, and a genuine interest in your students' lives beyond the classroom.

Bring your authentic self to your work. Students can spot grown-ups who aren't invested in their lives a mile away. If your interactions with students include microaggressions and unbalanced power dynamics, it's most likely that your classroom culture will be toxic.

Show up for your students as a whole human. This includes acknowledging your own mistakes, apologizing, showing love and support when students are grieving or in crisis, and believing in the success and future of your students.

Never lose sight of just how much power and influence you have on a young mind, even if at times it may seem like none of your little minds are paying attention. As we learned from Dr. Rios, one teacher can change the course of a person's life. We challenge you to be that teacher.

