

Statement of Education

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Education has been a personally motivating force in my life. Perhaps one of the proudest moments for me, was when I was awarded my Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership. My mother and father were in the audience. I owe my reverence to education to my parents. My mother wanted to be a teacher but came from a family too poor to send her to college. She was a very sharp woman and was very proud to see her daughter move to the highest levels in education.

My dad was born in 1919. He did not finish sixth grade. He was a WWII vet; spending time in both the Army and the Navy. He worked hard all his life. He was able to do manual labor to support his family. My parents did not have money but they believed strongly that education was the key to a better life.

I carry that with me as I move through my educational career. Our profession is more of a vocation than occupation. What educators do matters; now and for the future. It is critical that we hold ourselves to the highest standards as nothing but our best will do for the students that we serve.

Educators who have high expectations for their students and who show love, respect and fairness; really make a difference forever in a student's life. Our legacy is evident in the students as they become leaders and good citizens. Educators often don't know or fully understand how they impact their students.

We need to make sure that every child has a quality start in their educational life as well as challenging and exciting learning curriculum and environment.

Students today require a very different mindset and skill set than might have been necessary in the past. They learn best by doing and actively being engaged in the learning process. They need to see meaning and relevance to what we teach; where some of us might have been compliant and content to just sit and listen- this is not their way.

Education should be a standard and a marker for how our communities are doing. The level of support and attention given to public education really is a harbinger of how successful the economy and safety of that community. Our way of life depends on the educational leaders, teachers and staff understanding that what we do in the here and now; creates the very future that we hope will exist.