



***Why did you choose to work in education?***

Education has been a lifelong calling for me, largely influenced by my mother's dedicated service as a substitute teacher in SOMSD for an impressive 27 years. Her stories of the meaningful connections she made with students and staff and the positive impact she had on their lives ignited my passion for education.

***What is the best advice you've ever received?***

The most profound advice I

received early on came from my father, who instilled in me the belief that everyone has a unique purpose in this world. He emphasized the equality of importance in every role, highlighting the collective effort required for a team to achieve success. This perspective has shaped my approach to leadership and collaboration throughout my career.

***What is on your nightstand?***

My cell phone, a water bottle, and the book, "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz. This recommendation from our Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Zoila Correa, has proven to be a source of valuable insights and reflection.

***Tell us something about you that we don't know.***

I currently work in the same building where I attended kindergarten, first, and second grades. Additionally, I coached Columbia High School softball for over 10 years and worked in a garden center from ages 15 to 22, gaining a comprehensive education in horticulture.

***What are you most proud of?***

I take great pride in my 25 years of work in the District. Focusing on all students has always been my priority. The most meaningful aspect is seeing my students grow and maintaining contact with many of them, even from 25 years ago.

***What is something that you do to “recharge your batteries?”***

Traveling is my passion and what I do to recharge. Exploring diverse cultures and gaining new experiences not only rejuvenates me personally but also broadens my perspectives, which I find invaluable in my role in education.

***What is the best or worst kept secret about the District or school where you work?***

During my tenure at Clinton, our school was affectionately known as the "Little School That Could," a moniker that reflected our collective determination. Over time, we evolved into the "Little School That *Did*," achieving success against the odds. I hold the same optimistic view for our District, acknowledging areas for improvement but believing in the capabilities of the dedicated individuals working towards making us the "Little District That Did!"

***What are words that you live by?***

Be kind to one another.



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