



Detroit Federation of Teachers

LAWRENCE GLENN: inspiring kids to dream through teaching and learning

MY DREAM FOR MY STUDENTS is to inspire them to build a dream for their future. Without that dream, education is useless.

As a counselor, I try to instill a sense of hope, confidence and insight into the world my students are coming into. I went into counseling because I had an interest in working with students and helping them through their issues.

Earlier in my career, I was a math teacher. Even as a teacher, I always was concerned about the “whole person” and tried to break through my students’ barriers to learning—things like issues at home and internal struggles that prevented students from opening themselves up to the learning process.

I decided it was time to dedicate myself to helping resolve those issues.

In recent years, there have been a lot of things happening in public education in our city that are not in the best interest of kids. It’s often a challenge just to give students the basics.

We teach a wide range of students—those who are academically challenged, and others who are truly gifted and have real innate talent and ability. It’s heartbreaking that we don’t have the resources to help them really develop.

The truth is that we are in a war, and we need resources to help us fight this battle. When it comes to our nation’s defense, we find the resources to get what we need. When it comes to our children’s education, we see what kids need, but then try to find the cheapest solutions.

And really, a lot of elected officials just don’t know what kids need, because they’re not in the trenches every day. If they continue to make decisions in a bubble, they will always miss the mark.

It’s time to invest in kids and their dreams

Many of our students come from economically disadvantaged families. They have big dreams but often don’t see dreams being realized around them. They become discouraged. That’s where educators come in. We need support to help our students become the best they can be.

Lawrence Glenn is a counselor at Brewer Academy.

