



A Note from the Executive Director

By: Allison McJunkin,
Executive Director

The summer flew by for us here at Education Elevators as we have a lot of new and exciting things in the works! Over the summer, we launched a new school-business partnership between Potesta & Associates and Kanawha Elementary. Nine employees from Potesta have been matched with students at Kanawha Elementary.

We also launched partnerships with several community organizations including Charleston Rotary, the Bob Burdette Center and ProKids Inc. As part of our new partnership, members of Charleston Rotary will have the opportunity to elevate students after school at the Bob Burdette Center on the West Side and ProKids on the East End.

If that wasn't enough, we are expanding our program in Berkeley County with the Air National Guard. To support our growth, we hired a new program coordinator in the Eastern Panhandle.

We'll keep you updated on all our new partnerships! I hope you will continue to support us as we strive to reach new heights!

Nurturing a Growth Mindset

"Cultivation of a growth mindset starts with an understanding that greatness is largely about work."
-Jonathan Fields



A growth mindset is a child's belief that his or her abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. It is important for children to see that their success in school or intelligence is not set in stone. Instead of worrying about how smart they *THINK* are (or aren't) they can work to improve. It's important for youth to see failure as an opportunity for growth.

Ways to Promote Growth Mindset

Engage kids in conversations that focus on their progress and overcoming challenges. Instead of asking "How was your day?" Ask:

- What did you learn today?
- What mistake did you make that helped you learn something?
- What was something you did that you had to work really hard at?
- What was your biggest challenge today?

Encourage them to keep trying. Let them know that effort is how they improve.

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School Perspective

"I just witnessed a beautiful example of the raw power an Elevator can have with a child.

So positive, so real, so personal, so absolutely amazing. I was, and still am, gobsmacked. The school counselor and I couldn't look at one another because we were afraid to cry! Katrina spoke to Quincy about his behavior and it was MAGIC.

She drew parallels between her life and his and was able to sprinkle in a spattering of what kind of man he needs to be and told him how to get to that point in his young life. She also taught him about self-healing, anger and how to not give his power away through that same anger. She reminded him of real-world heroes - his father, his pastor.... Oh my. Amazing. She saved him and she saved me, too. She came to the school from work when I called. I simply could not have handled it without her help.

Katrina is an example of the incredible resource Elevators can be for students - and for teachers!"

- Becca Revercomb, Piedmont Teacher



ELEVATOR SPOTLIGHT



Jackson Kelly Elevator
Katrina with her student Quincy



Katrina Tyler

How long you have been an Elevator? I was an Elevator for 2 years when the program started - then joined back up 2 years ago.

How long have you been with Quincy? 2 years.

How would you describe him? Full of life - Quincy is smart and enjoys being challenged.

What do you enjoy most about your time with him? Quincy is an old soul, when we talk I can almost hear the gears turning in his mind. He responds to questions and directions with adult like responses. He is game for any activity I suggest- we paint and make jewelry, one time we made snacks for his class... whatever I suggest he is full force into it with me.

What do you like best about being an Elevator? Children are the true reflection of what the world pours into them. I am a firm believer in nurturing the spirit of every child. I volunteered at school and athletic events when my kids were growing up and saw first-hand the value of adult interaction on my sons and other children.

A great teacher, coach or volunteer can have an immeasurable impact on a child. I saw the importance of that to my boys - even through college, just having people believe in them and take their time to mentor them... that was a priceless gift. So I am simply paying back, in some small manner, the attention bestowed on my own sons. Now - I have a grandson (expecting another in March) so I have tons of paying back and paying it forward to do. There is no better way to do that than working with children.



We kicked off the school year with a pizza lunch and orientation for Elevators and students at Piedmont Elementary.

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For the second year, we sponsored summer yoga classes for students at Piedmont. Yoga has been proven to reduce stress, improve memory, lengthen attention span and boost student confidence!