

My desire to teach started when I was tutoring at a multicultural center for disadvantaged youths. Many of them had never even heard of college when they started but we explained about the opportunities in front of them. Quite a few were not only able to complete high school but went on to college. These are the same types of students that I taught at San Jose State University remedial math program; some of them would come to my office hours for extra help or open up about the issues in their lives. I had one student come to me about ready to drop out because of the sadness from the murder of his transgendered brother; I was able to encourage him and see him pass my trigonometry course. I will take all of these experiences and continue to encourage students for years to come, regardless of their background or views.

I believe a teacher must consider personal impact he or she can have on each student. Many students outside the mathematical majors believe that applied mathematics and statistics is the hardest subject they will face in their college careers and they are inevitably going to fail. I lectured a remedial algebra class where the program director wrote standardized tests for the course; I experienced personal success in seeing almost all of my students pass the course, many of them coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. I organized and conveyed clear lectures, assigned relevant homework, and provided the students feedback on a consistent basis. They communicated to me the progression of their skills as they worked through problems in class, turned in homework, and visited office hours. By the end of the course, when I explained that I was not returning to lecture the next course, they requested that I remain with them because they were actually learning the material and felt successful.

I expect in this day and age that anyone seeking to be a professor would be completely sensitive to and never derogatory about any culture, age, gender, religion, personal choices, life experience, and socio-economic status of any student. A professor should be a role model in their acceptance of those around them and in their desire to learn about people's background and the multifaceted world. Culture goes far deeper than skin color and can impact a student's view of the necessity of education, the drive for success, community support in their endeavor, and so much more. I believe the role of a professor is also to promote education as a whole to people of all backgrounds, even those who may not currently value education.

I have always lived and worked in a multicultural environment with a diverse set of people. I believe my life would be less rich if I did not have other people in my life that had come from different backgrounds. I definitely have a passion for people of all kinds and am sensitive to their needs. I believe I can overcome the stigma that students have placed on the field of mathematics and statistics effectively as evident in my past professional reviews and my passion for the subject and students.