



THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

**Office for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning
Showcase**

**Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro (she/her)
Associate Dean & Professor
College of Education & Professional Studies**

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

- Appreciate the invite & honored to serve as the keynote
- Applaud the creativity & commitment to excellence in teaching and assessment
- Who am I?

"THE BEST THING ABOUT
BEING A TEACHER IS
THAT IT MATTERS.

THE HARDEST THING
ABOUT BEING A TEACHER
IS THAT IT MATTERS
EVERY DAY."

TODD WHITAKER

What will I talk about?

- Today is about celebrating excellence and affirming why this work matters

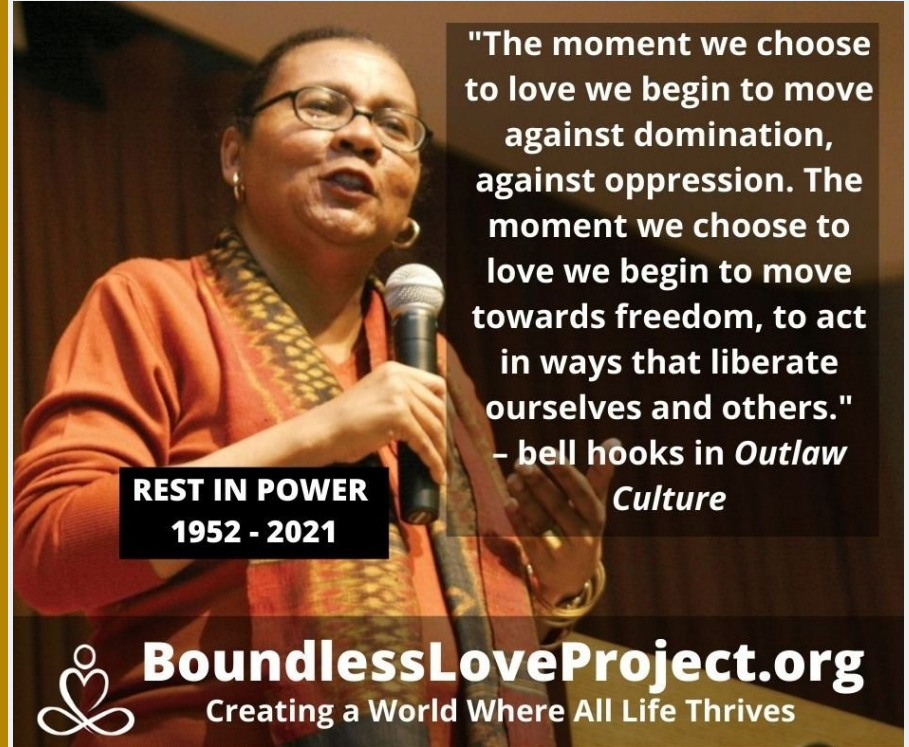
How will I structure my 12 minutes?

- Why excellence matters
 - Research, impact on students, insights from famous people

Excellence in Teaching

Centers & Shows [Com]passion and Love

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Impact of compassion and support

“I have definitely done better in the classes where the teacher really cares...But, when you have a lecture that's filled with 300 students, they're not going to sit down and make sure that every single person is succeeding. But that personalized care definitely does reflect on how well you do in the class because ... it makes you want to go to class because you know that teacher's looking out for you. (URI Student)



Excellence in Teaching

Fosters a Sense of
Belonging



The impact of belonging

Students who report a sense of belonging also have higher:

- Academic motivation
- Academic success
- Persistence
- Feelings of being valued by their university

(Freeman, Anderman, & Jensen, 2007; Hausmann, Schofield, & Woods, 2007; Hoffman, Richmond, Morrow, & Salomone, 2002; Strayhorn, 2012, 2019; Vaccaro et al., 2017, 2019).



“Thank you for being patient, understanding, etc. to your students. It shows that you care. and it also shows us that we can count on you to maybe keep in touch with you in the future if we would like too.” - URI Student Feedback

Excellence in Teaching

Matters for
Persistence &
Student Success

**"I AM SOMEBODY.
I WAS SOMEBODY WHEN
I CAME. I WILL BE A
BETTER SOMEBODY
WHEN I LEAVE.
I AM POWERFUL,
AND I AM STRONG.
I DESERVE THE
EDUCATION THAT I GET
HERE. I HAVE THINGS
TO DO, PEOPLE TO
IMPRESS, AND PLACES
TO GO."
- RITA PIERSON**

Impact of Excellence in Education

“It's awesome when you have professors [who are] willing to work with you. It makes me more confident in my degree and where I'm going in life.” (URI Student)

“She's been a tremendous help just giving me ideas and lots of provoking thoughts that I never had, and making me think, “Hmm, maybe that's something I would like to do.” (URI Student)



Excellence in Teaching

Fosters Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Justice

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Your commitment to educating/assessing for justice is incredibly important in 2022 as oppressive legislation proliferates restricting educators PK-16 from:

- Teaching about systemic oppression (e.g., anti-CRT)
- Discussing identity (e.g., sexuality and gender)



Impact of your DEIJ commitment

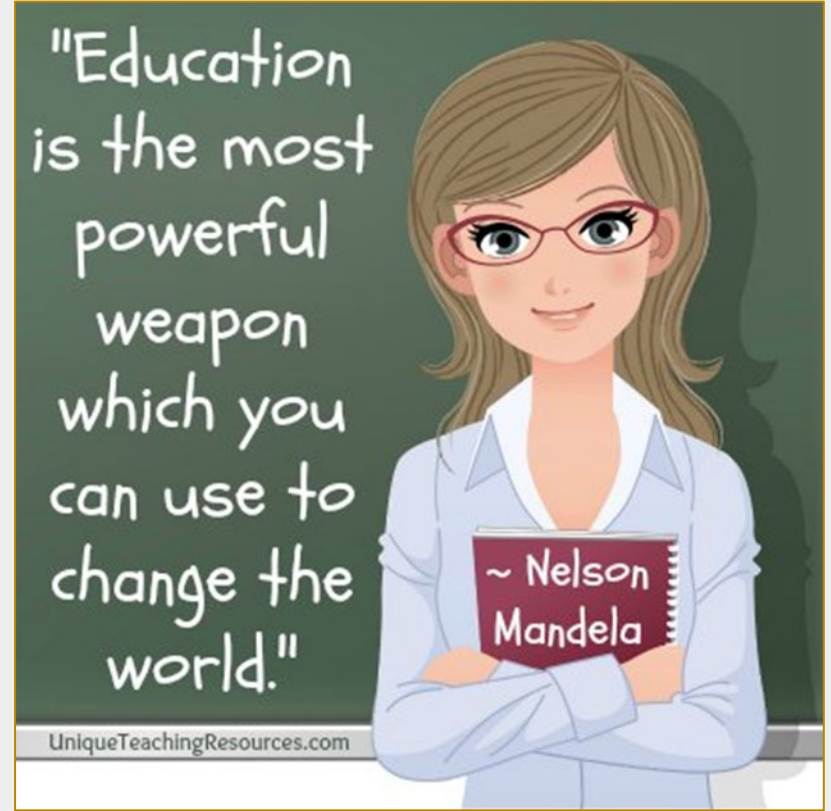
- Trolian & Parker (2022) found students' perceptions of faculty practices and student-faculty interactions was positively associated with both students' openness to diversity and willingness to be challenged
- Decades of literature highlights the importance of faculty reflexivity and commitment to growth (c.f., Salazar et al., 2010; Tuitt et al., 2016)
 - Lightning talks and posters highlight your commitment to growth



“I just want to say thank you for being such an empowering person and instructor! You’ve inspired me to do more advocacy work for the good of society and for the people who need it!” - URI Student Feedback

Excellence in Teaching

Inspires Activism
and Change Work



Impact of teaching inspired activism

“There are certain people who have come into your life and just make more of a difference than others. And I feel like there are certain professors that I've connected with that have encouraged me in ways that have inspired me to go on or to be better. Those...people come through my life and leave a lasting impact.” (URI Student)



Excellence in Assessment

Humanizing,
Student-centered
Improvements in
Education

“I cringe. These are students,
not performance indicators.”
(Participant; Muccio-Raposa,
2022)



Impact of Assessment for Excellence

“And then I talked with my first nursing professor...and I told her what was wrong. She was like, “Well, I don't think you should quit 'cause you're really good at this. It's just a matter of figuring out how we can make the [assessment capture your learning].”



Consistently, creatively, and systematically measuring the amazing things our students know, be, and do?

- Not simply for
 - Accountability
 - Accreditation
 - Reporting & Rankings

Imagine those faculty members who:

- extended compassion & love
- fostered your belonging, success & persistence
 - helped you think about DEI in new ways
 - inspired you to action

Thank You

You are role models
for educational
excellence who
make URI an
incredible place to
learn and grow.

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