Perceptions of Excellent Teachers

A study conducted by the Teachers for a New Era Project

at the University of Connecticut

1. Gender
   ☐ Male
   ☐ Female

2. Ethnicity
   ☐ White
   ☐ Black
   ☐ Hispanic
   ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
   ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
   ☐ Other __________________________

3. In what state do you currently teach?
   ☐ Connecticut
   ☐ Ohio
   ☐ Illinois
   ☐ New Mexico
   ☐ Other __________________________

4. Which description best defines the location in which you work?
   ☐ Rural
   ☐ Suburban
   ☐ Urban

5. Are you a University of Connecticut School of Education graduate?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

6. Indicate your position:
   ☐ Teacher
   ☐ Principal
   ☐ Assistant or Associate Superintendent or Superintendent
   ☐ Other Administrator
7. Did you attend a traditional 4 or 5 year Teacher Education Program?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

8. Did you attend an Alternate Route Program at a school other than UConn?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

9. Did you attend the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG) at UConn?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

10. What grade are you certified to teach? (Select the option that best describes you)
    ☐ Elementary (K-5)
    ☐ Middle School (6-8)
    ☐ High School (9-12)

11. What best describes the class(es) you teach?
    ☐ Agriculture
    ☐ Art
    ☐ Business
    ☐ Economics
    ☐ English
    ☐ Foreign language
    ☐ History
    ☐ Physical Education
    ☐ Psychology
    ☐ Math
    ☐ Multidisciplinary
    ☐ Music
    ☐ Science
    ☐ Social Studies
    ☐ Special Education
    ☐ Vocational
    ☐ Other ________________________________

12. Indicate the highest degree you currently hold
    ☐ BA/BS
    ☐ MA/MS
    ☐ 6th year certification or professional diploma
    ☐ PhD/EdD
    ☐ Other ________________________________

13. Do you hold a degree in a field other than education?
    ☐ No
    ☐ Yes
14. Please indicate the area of the degree
   - Agriculture
   - Art
   - Biology
   - Business
   - Chemistry
   - Child or Human Development
   - Computer Science
   - Economics
   - English
   - Foreign Language
   - Geology
   - History
   - Mathematics
   - Music
   - Physics
   - Political Science
   - Psychology
   - Sociology
   - Other ________________________

15. Are you a National Board Certified teacher?
   - No
   - Yes
   - N/A

16. Do you plan to apply for National Board Certification as a teacher in the next 5 years?
   - No
   - Yes
   - N/A

17. Think of an excellent teacher you know. This person may be a colleague or a teacher you had for class and who you know to be a great educator. Please respond to the following items with that one person in mind. *The excellent teacher you have in mind.*

   - Is caring
   - Is humorous
   - Is knowledgeable
   - Enhances learning with technology
   - Is friendly
   - Is flexible
   - Uses the internet as a resource.
   - Is fair.
   - Is enthusiastic
   - Is a good disciplinarian.
   - Is creative.

   - Strongly Disagree
   - Disagree
   - Undecided
   - Agree
   - Strongly Agree
Motivates students to learn.
Keeps current with the latest technology
Provides a rich learning environment.
Is a friend.
Is stimulating.
Uses instructional objectives.
Uses a consistent approach to learning.
Models the use of technology to other teachers.
Uses classroom management techniques to keep class on task.
Individualizes instruction.
Changes the pace of instruction.
Challenges students.
Uses a variety of assessments and tests.
Uses collaborative problem-solving in the classroom.
Is understanding.
Is strict.
Is ethical.
Relates current content to students’ experiences and lives
Is outgoing/social.
Assigns a lot of homework.
Facilitates small group discussions.
Lectures effectively to the class.
Is sensitive to student needs and concerns.
Leads class discussions.
Allows for individual differences in learning.
Stresses depth of understanding rather than breadth.
Teaches students to accept and appreciate differences between them.
Is a good leader
Actively engages in one-on-one instruction.
Has high expectations.
Encourages students to be active learners.
Has expertise in the content/domain.
Serves as a facilitator rather than a transmitter of knowledge.
Builds learning environments for students with different backgrounds.
Has expertise in pedagogy.
18. Is your excellent teacher a male or a female?
   ☐ Male
   ☐ Female

19. What is the ethnicity of your excellent teacher?
   ☐ White
   ☐ Black
   ☐ Hispanic
   ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
   ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
   ☐ Other

20. Are any of your parents/siblings/spouse/children teachers?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

21. Are any members of your extended family teachers?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

22. Do you prefer that teachers share about their personal lives in the classroom when making a point relevant to the material?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
   ☐ Don't care

23. Additional comments
   Please add any additional comments you want to share about the attributes of excellent teachers as we study the contributing factors in the preparation and support of excellent teachers.

   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

Thank you for your time and effort. Please take an opportunity to visit the Teachers for a New Era Project at UConn for more information about the project and a report of the results of this survey after December 1, 2004.