



Q: What surprised you about this experience?

A: Having a resident teacher has really provided me with the opportunity to reflect upon my own teaching practice. Whenever I watch my resident implement a strategy I taught her, it gives me the opportunity to watch my students and how they interact with each strategy. Observing my resident has prompted me to make changes to my lesson delivery based on my own self-reflection.

This experience has bonded me with these future educators. I see how much they've grown already and how much promise they possess. I have been fortunate enough through my educational career to have had the most supportive leaders, without whom I would not have developed the perseverance, skill, and knowledge that I have today.



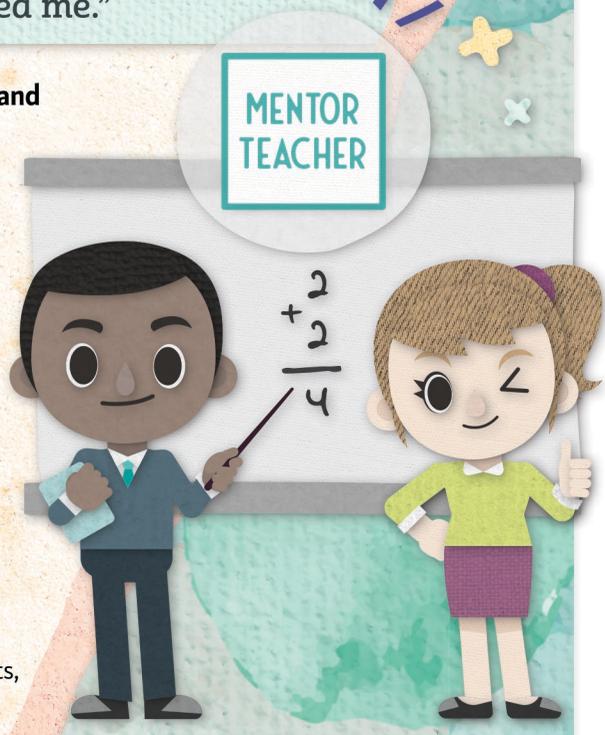
“These role models have pushed me to be my best and have motivated me to mentor other teachers the way they have mentored me.”

Q: How do you achieve a balance between your professional responsibilities and personal life with this new added role?

A: I was a former “Leader in Me” facilitator and continue to use the principles of author Steven Covey’s “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” to help balance work, family, and self-care. By practicing the “balance is best” principle, I have learned how to care not only for my body, but also my mind and soul, and prioritize things that mean the most to me. Therefore, I try to dedicate time before and after school to my everyday teaching work and also meeting with my residents. I maximize my time at work by using my recess breaks and planning period to get as much work done as possible. I spend time each weekend reviewing my calendar for the week and prioritizing the things that are important to me to accomplish.

Q: What advice would you give to educators who are thinking about becoming a Mentor Teacher?

A: Why not? Mentor Teachers play a key role in preparing future educators for the classroom. They serve as:



➔ Role Models

Not only are Mentor Teachers highly effective educators and role models to their students, they also serve as role models for their residents. Mentor Teachers are tasked with preparing their students and residents alike to meet and exceed their goals.

➔ Relationship Builders

Teaching is a team sport. Mentor Teachers must build strong relationships with their residents. Through this process, Mentor Teachers model relationship building skills that strengthen the bond between themselves and their residents, as well as demonstrate how relationships strengthen trust between educators and their students.

➔ Resource Providers

Mentor Teachers deliver resources and coaching for residents and new and developing teachers to help them improve.



Want to learn more about Mentor Teacher training?

Mentor Teacher training will create opportunities for educators across the state to develop the skills and knowledge needed to better support other educators. Beginning fall 2020, state-approved Mentor Teacher training programs and certification will be required for teachers who mentor undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents. Visit the Department’s Mentor Teacher webpage to learn more! Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

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