Graduate Students’ Evaluation of the Character and Caring of Their Instructors

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Activating Prior Knowledge

• What professor had the greatest impact on your life?
• How did s/he accomplish this meaningful feat?
Presentation Agenda

- Quick Lit-Review
- Rapid Data Presentation
- Fast Analysis
- Zippy Implications
Literature Review: Relationships matter.

- 1,000 studies
- 1948 to 2004
- 355,325 students

RELATIONSHIPS

Positive student-teacher relationships have an above average impact on student achievement when compared with other educational initiatives.

Developing Meaningful Relationships
Research Method

- 488 participants
- Online M.Ed. program
- Public school teachers
- Electronic delivery
- 65% response rate
Survey Questions

18 Likert-type questions

- Developing meaningful relationships
- Interacting with individuals
- Remembering student needs
- Exhibiting positive, caring attitudes
Foundational Findings

- 21% had “poor” professors.
- Everything is important.
- Actions speak louder than words.
- The task is not impossible.
Survey Results – Question Averages

Stated Intentions

Congenial Words

Compassion Content

Advice & Guidance

Individual Interaction

Consistent Caring

Remembering Needs

Significant Difference
Qualitative Support – Student Quote

“Early in my … program, a teacher I worked closely with at my school died suddenly. I was devastated, and … the professor … played an active role in helping me to move through the grief process. [He was] not my only support system, but [he was] an important piece of it.”
Harsh Language
Unhelpful in Need
Biased Attitudes
Critical Behavior
Lack of Concern for Need
Qualitative Support – Student Quotes

• “I had one very uncaring, unsupportive and very rude professor who made us feel inadequate and was not responsive to our needs. She lashed out when someone tried to speak up.”

• “I had one professor who did not keep her word with me…. She also changed the due date … because 85% of the cohort complained that they were too busy. Another cohort member and I had our papers done because we managed our time well.”
Implications

Broader Sample
- Different Context
- Different Population

Inferential Statistics
Questions?

Thank you.