

Forbes

A Love Letter To Teachers



Talia Milgrom-Elcott Contributor 

Education

I focus on collaborative problem-solving in K-12 STEM education.



Scott LoBaido installed 'Thank You' near Queens Hospital in Queens ANDREW KELLY

Dear Teachers,

You are our heroes. Every day of this pandemic, you have blown us away with your creativity, compassion, and commitment, your tenacity and heart. You have moved mountains to reach each child, wherever they are and despite the challenges that stand in your way. You've taught math classes while standing outside of homes, led online meditations to start the "school" day, created PE classes from your living room, filmed DIY science experiments, and found ways to check in with each kid. You've not only taught lessons; you have been our children's lifeline to normalcy and stability, a tether and a point of connection. When Shonda Rhimes tweeted, "Been homeschooling a 6-year old and 8-year old for one hour and 11 minutes. Teachers deserve to make a billion dollars a year. Or a week," she put into words the collective appreciation of the nation's parents.

Here's the secret you've known all along but is only now clear to the rest of us: It was always true.

As leaders deeply invested in the nonpartisan, multi-sector, national effort to prepare and support 100,000 excellent preK-12 STEM teachers by 2021, we salute you. In our living rooms and kitchens, our bedrooms and makeshift one-room schoolhouses, we are standing and cheering for all the world to hear: "We love you, teachers!"

Not because it's easy or because you get it right every day. It isn't, and you don't. But you've chosen to get in the arena and stay there. You have managed, not just during this crisis but against the backdrop of the everyday grind, to bring joy in the midst of struggle. You have taught kids from history books and stories, legends and myths in which your names do not appear. But when we tell the story of this time, the work of teachers and what you have done to educate, inspire, and connect us all will be front and center.

Even as we add our names to this letter, we know that praise without action rings hollow. Your courage during this time strengthens our resolve to tackle the systemic issues that have made it difficult for so long to get and keep great teachers, especially for our least resourced schools and communities, and especially in STEM.

On behalf of our students and our country, we the undersigned pledge to link arms with you to bring the changes in salary and work conditions, professional support and development, classroom resources and leadership that you have dreamt of, so that you can continue to fuel the dreams of our country's children. In these uncertain times, we will stand with you not just to protect progress that's been made in communities across the country but to make even greater strides to recognize and value the essential role of teachers.

There is an ancient teaching that the world itself rests on the breath of children when they are learning. Across these great United States, communities understand more profoundly than ever before that our very existence depends on the work you are doing. We are so grateful.

(If you want to [join your name](#) and share your appreciation with the teachers in your lives, [please do!](#))

Signed,

100Kin10

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* Individual names for the purpose of identification only. Organizational names represent the organization's sign-on. List complete as of May 6, 2020.

* During this crisis, supporting teachers has only felt more essential. We want all teachers to feel this outpouring of gratitude. This open love letter to teachers gives parents, community members, and educators a collective opportunity to express our admiration powerfully and in one voice. I hope you will [join your name](#) and share your appreciation with the teachers in your lives directly.

To learn more about the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, visit www.encorps.org.