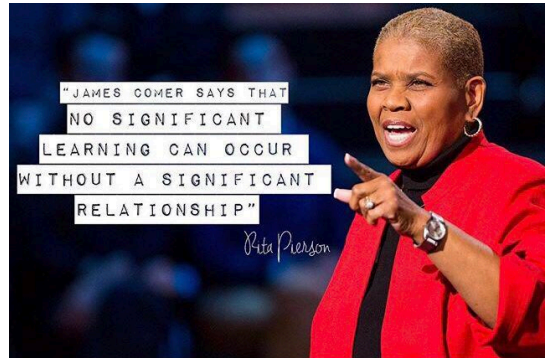


Be A Champion for Others

Long time educator Rita Pierson gave a powerful Ted Talk on the concept that every student needs a champion and it got me to thinking, doesn't everyone need a champion?

To Rita, a champion is someone that never gives up on another, understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best version of themselves. To be a champion is to adopt an "I SEE YOU" mindset, allowing everyone you meet to feel that you SEE them and accept them.

In the context of the work environment this certainly applies to our relationships with our students and families, but doesn't it also apply to our work family?? Being a champion to your peers is to take an interest in the positive development of another, and not just silently wishing them well. Active championing looks like building relationships through authentic connections. It is letting people know the official and unseen expectations of a group, team and organization. It is providing them with resources and directions. It is listening to understand, and not just to respond. It is being a sounding board and providing encouragement. It is helping another because that is just what you do. It is standing up for others, and speaking out against violations of another's dignity. It is truly supporting the idea that if everyone succeeds, we all win.



At its heart, being a champion of others is believing that everyone is invaluable, fragile, and both needs and deserves to feel that they belong. When we feel like we belong we can show up authentically, giving our best effort. Imagine the exponential power we would have to do more good if we felt we had a champion, and made the effort to champion others?

I leave you with two questions:

Who is your champion?

Who are you a champion for?

Want to read more?:

Every kid needs a champion ted talk -

https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion?language=en

<https://www.cornerstoneondemand.com/resources/article/ted-talk-tuesday-why-everyone-needs-champion/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/every-employee-needs-champion-daryl-keeley/>