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From: Tony Holland
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The attached 'professional development' article provides a comprehensive list of suggestions given by college instructors across the nation to improve student learning. Although a long list, it may provide you with an easy source of many ideas to use on your list of classroom initiatives to implement.

Good story!...

No matter who we are or what our actions may say, we all want to be recognized and appreciated. I often quote Lou Holtz, the famous Notre Dame Coach, who said, "Why is it that the people who need love, appreciation, and understanding the most usually deserve it the least?"

Jaime Escalante, the teacher on whom the movie *Stand and Deliver* was based, tells an amazing story about a mistaken identity and the difference it made in a young man's life.

This teacher had two students in his class who were both named Johnny. One Johnny was an excellent student, a happy child, and always had his homework completed on time. The other Johnny was always in trouble, never had his work finished, and generally made the teacher's life miserable.

The night of their first PTA Open House of the year a mother stayed after the meeting to ask about her son, Johnny, and how he was getting along in the class. Assuming it was the mother of the "good" Johnny, the teacher replied, "I can't tell you how much I appreciate him. I am so glad he's in my class."

The next day, for the first time all year, the "problem" Johnny had all his work done, he spoke up in class, and never once caused a disruption. He even volunteered to help another student. The teacher was astounded!

At the end of the day when everyone else had left, "problem" Johnny came up to the teacher and said, "My Mom told me what you said about me last night. *I haven't ever had a teacher who wanted me in his class.*"

That Johnny became one of the best students the teacher ever had - and all because of a mistaken dose of appreciation! No matter who we are and what our situation in life is, we all want and need to be appreciated.

You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life.

~Zig Ziglar

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