



CORNERSTONE
EDUCATION GROUP



Teachers with Passion: Erik Dean

In his position as Dean of Students at Cornerstone's Washington-Parks Academy (WPA), Erik Dean works one-on-one with students, assisting them in navigating their education and staying focused on their classwork. He's also charged with addressing behavioral issues, so he leads a mentoring program and restorative circles to help students learn to resolve their problems in a positive way. It's a big job, but Dean is seriously committed to ensuring that WPA students gain skills that will help them build successful futures.

Dean came to Cornerstone in 2002, as a 7th grade English and Language Arts (ELA) teacher at the former Nevada Campus, which is now Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy. He moved over to Washington-Parks Academy in 2012, and has served as both Academic Dean and now, Dean of Students.

Character In Action

One of the reasons Dean is committed to Cornerstone is because of his strong belief in Cornerstone's character education. Every month, students study a specific character trait, specifically love, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, peace, citizenship, gratitude and self-control. "I like to call them 'character actions,' since we have conversations to help our students understand what these traits look like in practical applications," Dean said. "We want them to see that it's a more fulfilling and successful way to live your life."

Dean also appreciates a very specific quality he sees in the Cornerstone team. "The people that work with Cornerstone are the most giving people I've ever encountered," Dean said. "Nothing is better than working at a place where the teachers have relationships that resemble a family. We go through ups and downs, highs and lows together. It makes the work experience a lot better when you know you can trust the people you spend so much time with."

What Advice Would He Give to Someone Considering Cornerstone?

What would Erik Dean say to another teacher considering a position at Cornerstone Schools? He says that one of the "advantages of working here is the opportunity to impact the City of Detroit and the world. If you truly love kids, Cornerstone will be a good fit for you."

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