

W-3: Sustain energy to reach ambitious goals

Harvest energy from outrage

To refuel your energy and motivation, take a second to reflect on what it is specifically that angers you about the achievement gap and how it is playing out in your classroom. As Stephani Estes (St. Louis '04), a Special Education teacher, explains: "Knowing that my students can succeed is what drives me to act relentlessly. Each time I see signs of potential from my students—an insightful observation, a thought-provoking question—I know that there is so much more potential deep down in them, and I want to keep working until I find a way to help them achieve all that they can."

Stephani's colleague Erin Stein (St. Louis '04) strongly agrees, adding, "Before I joined Teach for America, the cause of providing a quality education for every child was an abstract idea, but now, it is a concrete reality that must be achieved. My students' futures depend on it. This is what drives me to work relentlessly every single day—I need to ensure that Timmisha, Matt, Joe, Steve, and all of my students have every opportunity that they deserve."