

Kendall Chandler  
HCRSPA Scholarship Essay

From the time I was very small, I was teaching. At first, I was lining up my stuffed animals reading to them. By the time I first attended preschool, I was coming home and mimicking those lessons with my 'pupils'. I diligently played the role of teacher and student, making the plans AND completing the lessons. Each animal's work received meticulous feedback and corrections. We celebrated achievements and faced frustrations in this make-believe world.

As I got older, those pretend lessons turned into active teaching as a swim lesson instructor both in a group setting and individual/private lessons. The ability to adapt to different learning styles and ages was exciting and challenging, but the outcome of seeing a young person thrive in the water was further testimony that teaching was my passion.

It didn't matter where I was or what I was teaching, I just knew that I had a heart for learning and working with others. Teaching isn't just about a subject or a lesson for me; it's about relationships that allow for confidence to grow, for curiosity to thrive and for independence to develop. I am so excited to pursue a career that will be different every day but ultimately has the power to change the world one small step at a time.

While I have not decided exactly what that will look like for me, whether or not I want to be in a classroom, a guidance office, or somewhere else, but making a difference in the lives of others is something that means a great deal to me. Given the world we live in, it is more important than ever to commit to helping others and provide opportunities for them to feel safe, loved, and valued. Working in education will allow me to accomplish all these goals and more.