



World Teachers' Day QLD

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Teaching – where the future begins

A holistic approach to education

Inspired by the needs of her young friends when she was a student, Moné Coats-Ross strives to make a lasting impact teaching at YMCA Vocational School in Redlands.

“My friends needed teachers who cared, teachers who engaged and connected with them, teachers who took the time to understand and adjust their teaching or resources to help them learn,” Moné reflected.

“This is what inspired me to become a teacher.”

Moné’s passion lies in working with students who need extra support, be it due to neurodiversity, learning impairments, traumatic backgrounds, low socioeconomic status or any other adversity that impedes a student’s ability to learn.

“These are the young people that I love to work with, and their ‘success’ can be so incredibly varied,” she explained.

“Success is success, be it defined as receiving an ‘A’ on an assessment, simply handing in that assessment or even yet managing to sit through an entire lesson of that class without running out due to anxiety.

“So much goes into teaching beyond just teaching curriculum, and I am a big believer in the ‘hidden curriculum’.

“By that I mean, young people don’t just learn literacy and numeracy at school – they learn patience, resilience, flexibility, persistence, civility, social skills and emotional regulation.

“My job goes well beyond helping a young person to learn facts and complete assessments. My job is about helping to support them to become the best humans that they can be.”

For Moné, the rewards of teaching lie in the small moments of connection and growth. Even on challenging days, she finds solace in the interactions that leave students feeling heard and valued.

“What makes my job rewarding are the little moments,” she said.

“One lesson that the students all engage in, or one activity that everyone loves, or one interaction with a young person that leaves them feeling heard and valued. Not every day is a good day, but you can find something good in every day.”

Moné is passionate about working from a holistic approach to education and learning.

“Teaching should be about understanding the psychology of young people, creating meaningful connections and modelling healthy relationships,” she said. “Education and psychology go hand-in-hand; the most powerful way to have a positive influence upon young people is through connection, and connection comes from understanding.”

Moné Coats-Ross
YMCA Vocational School Redlands
Victoria Point