

# *From Risk to Resiliency*

© 2009 by Shera D. Carter. M.A., M.Ed.

Concrete Strategies for preparing underserved students for academic success



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[www.educationempowermentzone.com](http://www.educationempowermentzone.com)

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# EDUCATOR'S CREED

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I believe that education is a birth right for every single student that comes into my care.

I commit to seeing students not as they are, but what they have the potential to become.

I commit to reflecting on my socialization in order to acknowledge any biases that may prevent me from seeing the promise in every student.

I commit to taking the necessary time to transform myself.

As I walk in purpose. I collide with destiny.

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Reflection: What does resiliency mean to you?

History of Resiliency

# The Power of Communication

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## Deficits

## Strengths

Defiant

\_\_\_\_\_

At-Risk

\_\_\_\_\_

Lazy

\_\_\_\_\_

Hyperactive

\_\_\_\_\_

Disrespectful

\_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn

\_\_\_\_\_

Angry

\_\_\_\_\_

Test-Limits

\_\_\_\_\_

Aggressive

\_\_\_\_\_

Victim

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Student Encounters

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Student's Name

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Student's Name

# Personal Resiliency Strengths

## Social

### *Social Competence*

Responsiveness  
Flexibility  
Cross-cultural Competence  
Mastery  
Self-Awareness  
Resistance

## Emotional

### *Autonomy*

Positive Identity  
Self-Efficacy  
Initiative  
Empathy/Caring  
Communication Skills  
Sense of Humor

## Moral/Spiritual

### *Sense of Purpose and Future*

Special Interest/Hobby  
Goal directedness  
Imagination  
Achievement motivation  
Educational Aspiration  
Persistence  
Optimism  
Faith  
Sense of meaning

## Cognitive

### *Problem Solving*

Planning  
Seeing Alternatives  
Critical Thinking  
Resourcefulness

*Planned Response to Unplanned Change*. Training Material. ASCD.

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# What Resilient Teachers Do

1. Resilient teachers have a set of personal values that guides their decision-making.
2. Resilient teachers place a high premium on professional development and find ways to get it.
3. Resilient teachers provide mentoring to others.
4. Resilient teachers are not victims - they take charge and solve problems.
5. Resilient teachers stay focused on the children and their learning.
6. Resilient teachers do whatever it takes to help children be successful.
7. Resilient teachers have friends and colleagues who support their work emotionally and intellectually.
8. Resilient teachers are not wedded to one best way of teaching and are interested in exploring new ideas.
9. Resilient teachers know when to get involved and when to let go.

Patterson, J., Collins, L., & Abbott, G. (2004, March 1). A Study of Teacher Resilience in Urban Schools. *Journal of Instructional Psychology*, 31(1), 3-11. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. EJ774036)

## Culturally Responsive Literacy is Essential to fostering Resiliency and Increased Student Achievement



Identify 3 literacy strategies that you will commit to implementing in your practice.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Resources

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/graphicorg.html>

## Action Planning

Consider the information presented and how it can be utilized in your job/assignment/responsibilities, with special regard for youth recovering in crisis situations.

As a result of this session,

1. Activities/ideas I want to accomplish are...

- 
- 
- 

2. During the next two weeks I will..

- 
- 
- 

3. During the next year, I will...

- 
- 
- 

4. Ways in which I need resources and support are....

- 
- 
- 

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Job Area\_\_\_\_\_

## About the Presenter

Shera D. Carter, M.A., M.Ed. is an awesome educator, consultant, writer, and speaker. Ms. Carter is a catalyst for change and growth. She is the founder of the Education Empowerment Zone-a communication skills development and empowerment agency for educators that trains educators to take students from risk to resilience through concrete strategies that interrupt generational poverty and promote literacy.

As a resilient young single mother and full time graduate student she prepared inner city youth with no previous training in Speech and Debate to receive congressional recognition, win two state titles, and over two hundred trophies and awards. This resulted in her becoming Teacher of the Year, recognized in Who's Who Among America's Top Teachers multiple years and being named as a Houston World Affairs Council International Educator of the Year finalist. She currently serves as Literacy Coach at an exemplary inner city middle school in Houston where students have scored 100% in Reading and Writing.

With Bachelor and Master's degrees in Communication and Educational Administration, and Doctoral research in resiliency, Shera Carter is truly a social justice advocate and change agent that believes that adequate preparation coupled with opportunity equates to success.

Shera D. Carter's goal is to transform ideology that views students from a deficient based perspective to a strengths based perspective through the resiliency framework. Her vision is to promote effective communication skills and collegiality as a communications coach for teachers as facilitators, and to promote literacy across the curriculum in an effort to adequately serve underserved students for global competition.