



Denise Beckles

Early Upbringing

I was born in a large family from a very young age I was taught the importance of hard work, a sense of responsibility, love, dignity, respect for others and integrity. Through the most difficult circumstances these life skills were constantly instilled in us and viewed as the essential key to true happiness and success.

Primary School experience

I enjoyed my primary school experience. In reflection I pleasantly remember wanting to hurry on to school. The strict yet gentle teachers and fellow students made school feel like an extension of home. There were loads of happy moments and some sad ones. However, memories of my primary school experiences often refresh smiles and laughter.

Secondary school experience

I attended the Washington high school, a private secondary school which left me with a well rounded education. It was a unique teaching / learning environment, which focused on excellence for all.

My best teacher – Primary School

At the primary level I must give praise to Mrs. Ina Codogan-Kellman, she remains foremost in my thoughts mainly because of the loving and caring nature which she applied to her teaching. She always expressed a personal interest in my education and devoted lots of time to my learning. She remains an honoured family friend and educator.

My best subjects

English literature, Science and history are subjects which always fascinated me. I believe that they gripped my attention mainly because of their informative aspects. As I became older, science became my most loved subject as it gave me the opportunity to create and explore.

My best teacher – Secondary School

At the secondary school level, Mrs. Carmeta Fraser was my best teacher. She applied care and dedication into the teaching/learning process and always encouraged me to pursue education to the highest level.

College / University:

A constant quest for knowledge to impart and a desire to learn motivated me towards acquiring appropriate academic/professional qualifications. I am a graduate of Erdiston Teacher Training College/University of West Indies, Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity qualifying in Management of Human Resources, general management and Advanced general management and productivity. I pursued further and gained B.Sc and M.Sc degrees from the Indiana state university U.S.A.

What made me think about teaching

The love of knowledge and its importance to life, prompted me to answer the inner call to become a teacher. I love to challenge, innovate and encourage minds to view education as a process which, in its correctness, evokes a unique sense of critical consciousness.

I always have the urge to positively encourage minds into the pathway of productivity, management and success so they can be excellent catapults of effective change which would have lasting impact on national and international relations.

What helped me get on

Inspired by change and personal development, I progressively became more motivated to continue teaching. The daily challenges within the teaching/learning environment present many opportunities for which my professional skills and knowledge can be fully utilised especially in a multi-cultural context.

I was hired by an agency in Barbados to come to the UK and teach. I am a Food Technology teacher and they promised me that there would be excellent opportunity for me in the UK

The reality of the situation was that when I made huge adjustments in my life at home and came to teach in London. It was clear from the start that the agency I came over with was not equipped to deal with OTTs. I found myself in a situation which left me with no work and no support. I felt trapped and found it very difficult to survive within a Work Permit tied down to an agency that offered me no help.

My only option was to find a permanent work. After trying to find a permanent post with several schools and getting several knock backs, I came to know about Empower Teachers. I found an agency that understood my needs and requirements as a teacher and respected my knowledge as an experienced Food Tech practitioner.

I was offered one to one support from the agency and they found me a long term post at a school in central London. At first the post was for two terms. I was taken on permanently after this time. I am continuing to progress and am looking to do my QTS in the New Year with Empower Teachers Ltd.

What would you say to anyone who wants to become a teacher

Teaching is the most challenging job which you grow to love. It presents the opportunity for you to positively impact and incredibly change lives. Teaching is an awesomely powerful tool.