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## NOSS President's Letter June 2022

1 message

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**NOSS** <lhall@thenoss.org>  
Reply-To: NOSS <lhall@thenoss.org>  
To: acook@thenoss.org

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 1:13 PM



Colleagues,

Recently, I have been thinking about Mrs. Greenleaf, my favorite and most inspiring teacher that I ever had, and the influence that she had on me, even though she was only my teacher for one single year. I've thought about what kind of person Mrs. Greenleaf must have had in her life when she was a student who

influenced her in the same way that she influenced me...and the person before that one, and the person before that one. None of those people could have possibly known the impact that they would have on others many, many years into the future.

We can all probably pinpoint at least one educator who directly impacted the direction of our life, whether that person was in a classroom, an advising center, a dean's office, or in any other of the myriad locations a student success professional might work.

I've been told by one or two coworkers that as educators, we are just cogs in the wheel of the education system, laboring fruitlessly because "nothing ever changes." The only word I agree with in that statement is the word "laboring." We are definitely all doing that for sure!

Colleagues, we are not laboring fruitlessly. Student success professionals are laboring in faith, understanding that we may not always see the fruits of our labor, but knowing regardless that they will be there in the future.

This goes beyond influencing students, as well.

Every time we raise our hands and our voices to suggest a new idea, to question an accepted but problematic practice, or to share with stakeholders the power of the work we do, we are helping to lay the groundwork for the work that is to come, long after we are retired or dead. What we do now will hopefully be a positive step forward for those who take over the work from us in the future.

This month, I am personally reflecting on what I can do to be the Mrs. Greenleaf for my students. I challenge you to think about the Mrs. Greenleaf in your own past, how that person impacted you, and how you can channel that passion and influence into inspiring the students you interact with.

Meredith



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