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Brain Research and Instruction

Bridging Neuroscience and Education

"Science and Strategies"

**Brain Research and Instruction Newsletter | September 2022** 

# Post-pandemic Teaching and Learning: Recapturing Our Students

These are not the same students as before the pandemic. Are you seeing disruptive behavior, lack of focus/poor attention, or lack of effort and engagement? This often represents the next phase of this prolonged stress and trauma from the pandemic, anxiety from school violence, trauma from natural disasters due to fire and floods, and many other stressors students have experienced.

We must recapture them. We can do that by capturing their emotional brain, cognitive brain, mind, and hearts to create connection, increase attention, and foster engagement. This is a new talk that has been very well-received as we try to move away from a focus on anxiety and stress alone and move toward a more positive future.

In this brief article I will share with you one goal that reduces stress and improves achievement - increasing enjoyment. A way to increase enjoyment that also raises achievement is by increasing engagement. I will share with you three key concepts that reduce stress and increase engagement. I call them the Three C's.

READ MORE.

# Free Professional Development for Your Faculty (feel free to share with everyone)

Here is a link to a **podcast** I recently did for the Podcast Think Like a Genius out of UK. It has information from various presentations and my book *Multiple Pathways to the Student Brain*. It is 50 minutes long. It begins with a description of how I became a neuroscientist but then gets into science and strategies about the brain and learning, stress and learning, and other topics.

### **Now Offering Both Zoom and In-Person Presentation Options!**

Yes, I am back on the road again! And I am so happy about it! I keynoted a dual language conference in California in June and it was emotional to be there with the teachers after two and a half years!







#### **Notes from the Field**

### **Greetings from the Sorbonne in Paris**

I just got back a few days ago from Paris where I was so excited to give a lecture at the Sorbonne University. I was fortunate to speak in one of the historic halls where Descartes, John-Paul Sartre, Montaigne, Hugo, Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur and so many others have spoken in the last 1000 years. I have to say it was quite emotional.

I spoke to an international audience in a plenary panel on the topic of neuroscience and education. My presentation was *Building a Better Brain – The Roles of Brain Development, Experience, and Education.* My session was 30 minutes. The plenary panel was 2 hours and ran 15 minutes over and then they stayed for 15 minutes or so longer for questions – all the while sitting on those hard seats!!!! That's dedication.









This talk is now available as a keynote suitable for early childhood or as a kick-off to a conference emphasizing the important role of education. It also includes information on practices that reduce the effects of poverty on brain development and achievement. If you want to know more, **contact me** or reply to this newsletter.

#### **Featured Presentations**

#### Post-pandemic Teaching and Learning: Recapturing Our Students

Are your students different than they were before the pandemic? Are you seeing more behavior problems? Less motivation? Trouble focusing and paying attention? These behaviors are typical responses to trauma which our students have been experiencing for some time.

Learn how stress, anxiety, and trauma affect learning and increase behavioral problems. Acquire a quick strategy for addressing that emotional state.

Now let's take it a step further. Let's move forward with hope and positive emotion. In fact, positive emotion can raise achievement just as negative emotion can decrease it. What can we learn from the science of positive emotion and the new field of positive education that can help us help our students?

See how the brains of teachers and students can synchronize – literally get on the same wavelength. Acquire strategies for engagement and motivation.

Then go beyond the brain to the heart. Find out how hearts can synchronize and how engaging the heart can lead to stress reduction and better learning.

Learn how to synch up with your students! You will leave this keynote energized with strategies for engaging the body, the brain, and the heart to enhance instruction.

#### Testimonial from the recent debut for TESOL Italy

"Insightful, amazing, innovative food for thought, inspiring, lots of positive feedback."

Maria Grazia Maglione, TESOL Italy President

Read more testimonials <u>here</u>.

**LEARN MORE** 

This keynote can also be geared to language learner faculty with amazing new information about the brain/body/heart and language learning.

#### **Building a Better Brain**

Only offered as a keynote or breakout of 20-45 minutes.

#### I. Brain Development

- Growth of neural networks
- Sequential development of different functions in childhood
- Frontal lobe function development
- · The adolescent brain
- Segue: the effects of poverty on brain development

#### II. The Role of Experience

- · Language development and experience
- Role of parent and language/reading development
- Early skill level effects on reading outcomes
- Segue: why this must be addressed early in schools

#### III. The Role of Education

- Addressing multiple brain pathways during instruction builds a better brain
- · Curriculum that builds a better brain

#### IV. Conclusion

I do hope I get to see you in 2022, preferable in person, but if not, on Zoom. In the meantime, prioritize yourself and stay well.

Best regards, Janet

## **Stay Connected**









Contact Dr. Zadina

**Janet's Web Page** 

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