



## 2010 FEA National Conference FEA Moment

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Excited masses of people began filing into the room, filling it with a magical energy. I sat at my table with other prospective teachers from my school and our advisor, teacher, and friend, Mrs. Eiserike. Her excitement inspired me to want to become a teacher, her passion helped me recognize my calling, and her determination got me to Denver, Colorado, last year. Her wisdom, support, and forgiving personality inspired me to become a better daughter, a better friend, a better student, and a better teacher. It is to her that I owe my FEA moment.

It was at last year's national FEA conference that I first thought seriously about teaching as a profession. Though I had always enjoyed working with kids, I realized I wanted and needed a career where I truly felt that I was making a difference in the lives of others. I realized I was lucky to have teachers like that—and I, too, could be that teacher for my students. In Denver, I had the privilege of meeting and interacting with teachers from all over the country. It was so amazing to me that hundreds of completely different kinds of people from all over the country—adults and students—could come together and create this incredible sense of unity. They are linked by one thing: a passion for teaching. I listened to other students' FEA moments and came to understand that being a teacher was not just a job; it was the job—the job for me. I would be honored to dedicate my life to educating students and trying to enrich the lives of the people around me.

I watched the Ron Clark Story during FEA meetings last year. The way Ron Clark touched each and every one of his students to create a family of learners showed me a new side of teaching. It was beautiful to me. As the world-renowned teacher stepped onto the stage at last year's conference, I was fascinated by his stories and how he was able to create such unity and a sense of family in a classroom of previously disinterested students. He spoke of teaching not only as a profession, but as a lifestyle. His incredible stories were truly an inspiration to me. It was as if after years of searching, I finally understood my purpose in life, and I was proud of it. I love the feeling I get when I help my first grade students read a complicated sentence and they get it. The light bulb goes on; they are ecstatic and proud, and it makes *me* ecstatic and proud. It is a rare and special thing to find a way to spend your life that will impact those of others. I love knowing that every day, when I walk into my classroom, I have two dozen kids looking up at me as if I'm their hero and I have all the answers.

My mission as a teacher is to erase from the minds of people today the adage that "those who can't do, teach." I plan to make it known that those who have the drive, enthusiasm, determination, and passion to do should, by all means, teach. *Enseñe!* That is why I am here today and why I know I will dedicate my life to teaching.