

# **The Teachers of the Pandemic**

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Teaching during this pandemic has been an arduous challenge for so many reasons that could not have been fully anticipated, but teachers have refused to back down or back away from it. Relentlessly and with amazing creativity and ingenuity they have worked, day after day after day. Just like the front line medical staff, they don't give up, they don't turn away, they don't admit defeat; they continue to show up every day and give us their best, despite what it is doing to them.

We must help these remarkable people take good care of themselves because many are struggling. The workload is relentless, expectations about what they are expected to accomplish are sometimes wildly unrealistic, and success with students is a never-ending struggle. They are working virtually alone, without the customary teamwork of their colleagues, and at the same time they are over-exposed to the struggles in their students' homes, but they can't ever leave work by going home themselves. So, here they are today, right where they were yesterday, problem solving, innovating, making it work, while at the same time, as they work in the presence of their own family, their children are a reminder that they are not doing enough for them. Despite a supreme effort, our teachers must end each day with a feeling like they're never doing enough. Still they show up every day on the front lines and give us their best.

I have had the privilege of working with some of these teachers. It has been an honor for me to join them and one of the most heartwarming and awe-inspiring experiences I have had in my career. We have many, in this pandemic, whom we are calling heroes and that is what I am calling The Teachers of the Pandemic. Thank you, thank you, thank you. —Kevin Plummer

