

89%

of its alumni teach in
urban classrooms for
four or more years



Katrina Bucholz and a third grade student

Teaching With Love

As a second grader in Minnesota's suburbs, Katrina Bucholz dreamed of becoming a teacher. But, it wasn't until she was introduced to the Center for Urban Teaching in college that her dream became more focused and profound.

The Center for Urban Teaching began as an outgrowth of the Education Department at Wisconsin Lutheran College, and is now a nonprofit organization based in Milwaukee that works within colleges to identify undergraduate students who are mission-focused. It then prepares and supports them in their early years of becoming high-performing urban teachers. The Center for Urban Teaching believes that by leading with a purpose greater than self, teachers are able to unconditionally love their students and help them reach their potential.

Participating in the Center for Urban Teaching showed Katrina the incredible difference she could make as a teacher in an urban school. Despite a fear of new challenges, she was inspired to join the Center for Urban Teaching summer school teacher training program.

While spending an intense summer of training in Milwaukee, Katrina was immersed in team bonding, professional development and learning classroom management skills. Within weeks, she put the new knowledge to work while teaching in a Center for Urban Teaching summer school, working within a co-teaching model with mentoring from an experienced teacher.

After graduation, Katrina decided to stay in Milwaukee and teach at Risen Savior Lutheran School. As a seventh grade teacher, she was matched with a Center for Urban Teaching mentor to help hone her skills. She also participated in weekly professional development sessions with other beginner teachers.

Katrina works to build genuine relationships of love and respect with her students. By helping them believe in themselves and their future, Katrina can see her students becoming more focused and eager to learn.

Today, Katrina doesn't fear challenges. She embraces them. As she now works towards her Master's degree, she plans to become a principal in a Milwaukee urban school and work closely with teachers aspiring to create a bright future for their students.

“Center for Urban Teaching prepared us to set up and manage the classroom while gaining our students' respect and trust.”