

Michele Basu, Counselor- Participant of PTC Creating Effective Schools 2019



" I'm a school counselor. I've been a school counselor for 21 years and I had the luxury and privilege of working at one high school three times. Each time it just felt like coming home, a very warm family atmosphere and the administration team really went out of their way to build a huge sunshine committee. If you don't know what that is, I can talk about that later. And they really firmly believe that all the adults in the building, just like the students had two homes, primary home and a secondary home and this was a low socioeconomic school and they knew that a lot of our students, their home life wasn't great, they weren't getting the security and safety and love and appreciation that they needed. So we had to provide that here at school.

The administration team also knew that a lot of the adults in the building, even maintenance, cleaning ladies, cafeteria workers, everybody in the building, including, um, Oh, now I'm forgetting the um, substitute teachers could be in that situation too. So they really wanted to make the school, the work environment and their primary home place. So they would go out of their way to be friendly to everybody, find out what was going on in your life. And they had, um, sort of like key people, school receptionists and secretaries who had the extra social roles to let admin know, this person needs a swing by chat today. the principals will say, who needs a duty free week this week, who was really stressed out? Who needs to leave work early? Like everything was very open and honest and loving and cared for. So my Pearl, who was amiss, it's just remember that as the adults in the building, we need to take care of everybody else first. And they, everyone needs to feel loved, cared for and appreciated. That way they can thrive. And then that goes down into the students and that's what will produce learning and growth in students."