

## AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

**Ayers Institute “My Why” Podcast**  
**Episode 2 – March 2018**  
Title: *Carrie Abood*

### SPEAKERS

<b>RM</b>	Rachael Milligan	Managing Director, Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning & Innovation
<b>CA</b>	Carrie Abood	Lower School Principal, Portsmouth Christian Academy in Dover, New Hampshire

### FULL TRANSCRIPT

#### *INTRODUCTION:*

**RM:** For some, it is a decision made after a moment of epiphany. For others, they can't imagine a time when they wanted to be anything else. They are teachers. They are leaders. They are life changers. These are their stories.

**CA:** My name is Carrie Abood from Sparta Tennessee. And this is my why.

**CA:** Every teacher makes an impact. It doesn't matter how long you've been teaching, or what grade you teach, or where you teach. Every teacher can make an impact on this world, and they do. And hopefully nine times out of ten it's a positive impact. When I think you ask teachers what makes your story special, or what makes your profession significant– it's hard because sometimes you're in the trenches and you're in the midst of grading papers and you don't feel very significant. And, you have sometimes community members or parents or outside influences that don't make you feel significant. But the bottom line is I don't think there's a more impactful profession out there.

**RM:** Welcome to My Why, stories of inspiration from educators. This podcast is presented by the Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning and Innovation and brought to you by the College of Education at Lipscomb University, where 21st century educators are prepared to involve, impact, and inspire. My name is Rachel Milligan. Today we are joined by Dr. Carrie Abood Assistant Professor in the College of Education at Lipscomb University and newly hired Lower School Principal of Portsmouth Christian Academy in Dover, New Hampshire. Carrie thank you for being here today.

**CA:** Thanks for having me, Rachel.

#### *EPISODE BODY:*

**RM:** Can you think of one really specific moment that kind of sums up your passion for being an educator?

**CA:** When I was teaching high school English, I had a student –a young man– who was struggling mightily in my classroom. He was tuning out. He was acting out. And, at the time, I look back on it and think that I did not do a very good job of taking care of him in my classroom.

I took some of his retaliation and some of his outburst personally when knowing now what I know; it had nothing to do with me, but still at the same time I feel like I didn't reach out to him or reach out to his family like I should have. And I spent several years really feeling bad about that situation, you know, he's

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the student or that's the situation that once I moved into teacher prep I would talk about, you know, we all make mistakes. And as a teacher, this is one of the mistakes I made and I regret it; and I wish I could go back and change how I did or how I worked with this person.

So, two years ago my family and I changed church families and I was walking down the aisle after church with one of my children. And this young man steps out of the aisle and says hello to me. And I was so excited to see him. But at the same time, in my brain automatically this flood of emotion kind of comes into me. The regret, the embarrassment that I didn't do the job that I could have done as his teacher. And instead of the responses he could have probably given me, he gave me the biggest hug and he said I am so sorry. And this is just out of nowhere he just said "I am so sorry for the way I acted in your class." And I looked at him and I said "I am so sorry for the way that I acted in my class." And we had a hug and a moment. And to this day we see each other at church and we say, "hello." And it was one of those chances to mend a relationship.

The impact that teachers make, oftentimes we don't see the results of those impacts. And, it was just one of those nice moments for me, for sure.

**RM:** What keeps you going on? What keeps you in the profession of education?

**CA:** Oh I just love it. I mean I love that day to day. I love the conversations, the hard conversations. I think about the relationships with students. The fact that you get to be a part of their lives.

I walk into the classrooms, and I just can't imagine not doing what I'm doing. It's it's fun. It's different every day, every school year the kids- are great students. And it's also just wonderful to invest yourself in a profession that's worthwhile.

**RM:** What do you hope that your students remember most about you.?

**CA:** I guess the first thing that I hope students remember most is that I was passionate and loved what I did. That I loved being in the classroom and that I had a passion for it. I also hope they remember me as being engaging and excited to be there. And I brought one note that a student had written to me just recently. This is one of my education majors and she said

"I can tell you truly have a passion for what you do. And I pray I can be that way as a teacher someday too. Thank you again for instilling the passion inside of me to want to go and teach and change lives. You've changed my life."

I'm very thankful that I was blessed with the gift of teaching. I think that not everybody is. I'm just thankful that I was blessed with that gift, because it's a wonderful thing to work with students and to just be in the classroom.

**RM:** We asked you to sum up your "why" in six words or less. So, tell us your "why" in six words.

**CA:** "My why" is because "teaching is an incredible gift."

**RM:** Thank you so much for being here, and for sharing your story with us today.

*CONCLUSION:*

**RM:** As we close today's episode, we encourage you to consider your own sources of motivation. What inspires you to do what you do? What is your why? Share your ideas on social media using

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@AyersInstitute and #MyWhy. Also, check out the handout including some of Dr. Abood's favorite resources, lessons learned, her six-word memoir, and other helpful information. This handout can be found on <http://eduTOOLBOX.org>.

Connect with Dr. Abood on social media @aboodcr and with the Ayers Institute on Facebook and Twitter @AyersInstitute.

I'm Rachel Milligan producer and host for the My Why podcast. This episode was directed by Julia Osteen. Forest Doddington handles editing and technical production. This podcast is brought to you by Lipscomb University's College of Education.

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