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Einstein, Jobs, and Our Budding Geniuses

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## Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics

### Persistence and Creativity

Persistence and creativity are beautifully connected. The more we persist, the more creative we become. Success and genius are built on both traits, as Einstein and Jobs readily prove. How will you nurture the budding geniuses of tomorrow?



### Shout Out! DCPS Standing Ovation



### In This Issue

**Albert Einstein's Genius Proven Again**

**How to Raise a Creative Child, by Adam Grant**

**DC OSSE**

**Steve Jobs**

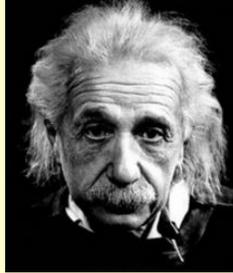
**Albert Einstein's Genius Proven Again**

Scientists recently announced that they have detected

DC Public Schools has a special event for its finest! Hundreds of educators are nominated for the Excellence and the Rubenstein Awards by their peers as well as parents, students, and community members. This year's winners,

gravitational waves from the merging of two black holes in deep space--predicted in Einstein's Theory of Relativity over a century ago.

Albert Einstein started school in Germany at 6 1/2 and got high marks, although teachers didn't find him particularly exceptional--perhaps because he so strongly objected to the restrictive classroom atmosphere and rote learning demanded of him. Einstein was reading college physics books at 11 and became enthralled with Kant's Critique of Pure Reason at 13. The exam he reputedly flunked was an early entrance exam to the Zurich Polytechnic University, administered in French, which was not his native language. He was later automatically admitted into the University upon completing high school.



*Consider these questions:*

1. How much impact did Einstein's learning environment and behavior have during his childhood?
2. How many fewer geniuses do we have because of the tightly controlled teaching methods of Einstein's day?
3. How are our learning environments nurturing today's budding geniuses?

## How to Raise a Creative Child, by Adam Grant

**The New York Times**

In this New York Times article, Grant explains why the grand majority of child prodigies do *not* become adult change-agents. They strive to be perfect, but the endless practice yields nothing new or original. In adulthood, many prodigies become experts

honored at the Kennedy Center on February 1, were recognized for their dedication, tenacity, persistence, and creative problem solving.



Standing Ovation is sponsored by Alice and

David Rubenstein.

Mr. Rubenstein is the chairman of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He believes that "highly effective educators should be rewarded for the important work they do every day."

## Growth Mindset for Teachers and Students



In the February Coaches' Corner of Teaching Children Mathematics, Robyn asserts that a growth mindset to build teacher capacity ensures that teachers

original in business, many pioneers become experts and leaders in their fields without pushing against boundaries.

Grant cites a study in which the most creative children are raised with the fewest restrictions. By limiting rules, parents encourage children to think for themselves and learn by consequence rather than punishment. Parents also encourage their children to find "joy in work," which means that they pursue their own interests. Benjamin Bloom's research found that child's intrinsic passion drives the hours of work, often meandering in different directions and adding depth and breadth to a self-selected area of expertise.



develop in the same safe, risk-free environment that should be pervasive in classrooms. She shares specific, practical, easy-to-implement strategies for accomplishing this in the column.

Robyn also provides questions for teachers that focus on creativity and persistence in reaching students. This reflective self-assessment, typically occurring after instruction, motivates teachers to build in themselves the mindset, persistence, and creativity they want to grow in their students.

## OSSE: Achieving Higher Standards Conference

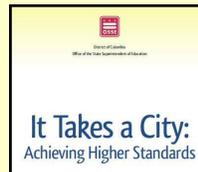


On February 19, the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is sponsoring the popular, It Takes a City LEA Institute. The Institute is focused on supporting educators and school leaders in helping all students achieve DC learning standards.

The program contains stimulating workshops offered by DC leaders. Robyn would love to see you at her workshops:

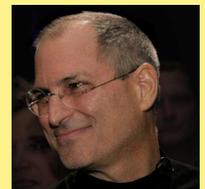
--Problem Solving through Productive Persistence

--Math is Our Favorite Subject! The Best of Common Core Teaching.



## Quote of the Month

"Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative



people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. That's because they were able to connect experiences they've had and synthesize new things."

Steve Jobs



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