Reflective Questions: Episode #3
Supporting Rural Educators

In this episode, the hosts are joined by Rachel Black, a 2016 graduate of the WGU School of Education and a first-generation college graduate in her family. She is an award-winning STEM teacher acknowledged for her consistent innovation, including grant writing while working in a rural school lacking necessary science lab resources. Rachel has experience in both rural and urban classrooms, and in this podcast episode, she and the hosts share insights about how we can help meet the unique needs of rural educators.

We encourage a regular cadence of self-reflection with these questions, continuously looking for room for growth, and cause for celebration. You may re-engage with episode #3 here.

Self-Awareness:
- What are my priorities for this week within the scope of work-life balance? Which are critical to accomplish, and which are negotiable for this week?
- What am I doing to support my mental health in this prioritizing process – how will I be okay with the things I cannot get done this week or next?
- What can I do that will help move my classroom and my community forward?
- How am I engaging personally and authentically with my students?
- How am I growing professionally – learning new subjects, practices, classroom management and teaching techniques?
- How will I reflect at the end of each week on what I have accomplished with the resources I had? What can I improve upon and where I can celebrate successes?

Self-Advocacy:
- How can I build a peer professional learning network in my school?
- Am I working with my fellow teachers collaborating and cooperating as much as possible to make the most of our resources while learning from each other?
- Where can we share work for greater gain, ie., grant writing?
- Am I looking at available online resources for my learning and growth?

Community Engagement:
- How am I helping my community understand my needs so they can help me and my fellow teachers?
- How am I communicating victories and challenges to my principal and leaders so they can communicate these to policymakers and stakeholders?
- Am I looking at the community for resources and support such as educational foundations that offer grant funding?