



## **Editorial: Measurement + Creativity = Success**

*by Nicole Adrian*

As much as teachers, administrators and parents ask of students these days, it's surprising not all schools and districts work to involve students in their own learning processes.

Sure, students seemingly understand what is expected of them as far as subjects and projects throughout the school year, and they know state standardized tests are the norm. But do they know they can be empowered to take charge of their learning and can use creativity to define goals and design personalized action plans for their learning and progress?

Curtis Elementary School in the Weatherford Independent School District in Texas is one school that is engaging students in understanding their learning processes. In this issue of *Primary and Secondary Education Brief*, Lorie Bratcher, the school's instructional facilitator, and LeAnn von Phul, a sixth-grade teacher, write about how Curtis Elementary uses a plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycle to get students directly engaged with their learning processes to become intrinsically motivated.

These efforts have brought students and teachers together as partners in education. Students use PDSA processes to figure out how to improve their academic skills and determine what works for them, and teachers saw how students became invested in what the students were doing in class after PDSA was implemented.

In another article, Cindy McClung and Bob Hogle—who have presented at ASQ's National Quality Education Conference (NQEC)—write about how encouraging creativity in various ways can help students expand their learning skills. McClung and Hogle describe how asking students questions in open-ended meetings sets the stage for them to define goals, and collect and analyze data to monitor their progress.

McClung and Hogle's article includes examples for ways to engage students. One of the examples details how the questioning process is used in a short, quarterly academic conference with a student who wants to do well and learn. Another example helps students evaluate what is important to them and determine the best way to obtain it.

Engaging students in learning and getting them to understand their goals and progress—especially early in their academic careers—is a win-win for students and teachers. With this model, the students grow to be more independent, mature thinkers, and teachers have students who are invested in the learning process.