

Podcast Episode 1

Engaging Students Beyond the Classroom

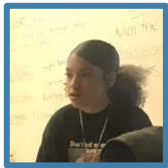
Interview Excerpts

In Remix Podcast Episode 1, Karen continues her ongoing conversation and engagement with [David Adams](#), CEO of Urban Assembly. [Gizzelle Gonzales](#), a senior at the [Urban Assembly School for Collaborative Health Care](#), also joins the conversation. Their discussion explores Urban Assembly's multiple avenues for meaning making and how they are activating all adults to fully integrate academic, social, and emotional development and career readiness.

On School Culture



Karen: Gizzelle, talk to us about why the school you are going to feels different to you than your past schools.



Gizzelle: I'm proud to say that I am soon to be a graduate from an Urban Assembly school. They often tackle the missions to just be there for all their students and be there to create a community and sense of culture for Urban. I believe that if you go to any other high school, you just don't get the same feel that Urban culture creates with meaning, with empathy, and seeing and creating with the students a whole sense of community - being there for each other, creating social awareness, and being there for you.



Karen: David, how do you make that happen? How do you get a staff to have this common mission and really work towards this common purpose?



David: We have a common operating picture around the roles that adults should be playing in developing a sense of culture in our schools. To the extent that we can we want to create a sense of who we are and how we're modeling who we are so that young people can see in the staff the attributes for solving problems that we want them to develop.

People have a responsibility for developing these skills, attitudes, and culture that it means to be part of the school.

Gizelle works as a peer connector. The relationship between you and the underclassmen is that the senior classmen actually reproduced this notion of culture by directly mentoring and developing in the underclassmen some of these ideas of what it means to be an Urban Assembly student at the School for Collaborative Health.

On the Role of All Adults

Karen: Who are the adults that do this great job of creating community? Is it just your teachers?

Gizzelle: It's definitely the staff in Urban Assembly that helps create the culture that I mentioned. The staff bring other people to help create that culture. And also the staff kind of embed that Urban culture into their students. Freshman year, we kind of create that by having different clubs and different things. So mainly the staff; the students.

It's a whole. It's a mission that we all come together and do.
It's not really these people separately. We all come together and create that culture together as one.

David: Our common operating picture includes the roles that adults should be playing in developing a sense of culture in our schools. That means the deans. That means the teachers. That means the cafeteria workers.

Karen: Gizzelle, I noticed that you're very intentionally using the word staff and not teachers. Often when I talk to students, they say teachers. Who are the staff?

Gizzelle: The staff can include the teachers. The staff includes anybody who helps contribute to Urban culture. It's not really labeled; I can put anybody who contributes to the culture of Urban.