

Deep Hope

That my students would leave East Linn Christian ready to shoulder the responsibilities of building the kingdom of God in whatever circumstances he places them.

### FLEx Story:

My 9-12 Leadership class is made up of our ASB and Student Council. They serve the student body by finding ways to build community and make space for the belonging of others. One of the ways we've done that this year is writing a card to a member of our school community and delivering it as a class in person every Friday. Students nominate someone at school who is kind, could use encouragement, or as a way to tell someone they're appreciated. When we deliver the card, someone tells the recipient why they're awesome and that we are glad they're at East Linn, and then take a picture of the whole class with that person right as the bell rings for the weekend.

#### **Student Reflections:**

Prompt: How did this activity help us make space for the Belonging of Others?

- "It makes them feel loved and worthy" Sophomore
- "It shows people that they are accepted and enough, ad that they belong" Sophomore
- "We are called to include others as disciples of Christ" Senior
- "The activity makes others feel wanted and noticed. Feeling noticed makes others feel like they fit in, like they belong" - Senior
- "It puts others before us" Senior
- "By putting others first and not getting caught up in the wrong stuff" Junior

#### **Teacher Reflections:**

I've been impressed since our very first week on this project, when a student I didn't expect took the lead by nominating someone in their own class that they admitted to not caring for as well as they could have. Since then, they continue to blow me away by what our class has written in their notes, by the range of people they have thought of to be included, and by their enthusiasm in the project. If I forget to get us started that week with a card, they'll remind me. They're enthusiastic about talking, and always write kind and sincere comments in the cards. While a small FLEx project, I've been blessed by it's gentle significance for us as a class and how it's built community.

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