

How can we ensure that all students, regardless of cultural background or socioeconomic status, are granted equitable opportunities to succeed in the classroom and beyond? In *Keeping It Real and Relevant: Building Authentic Relationships in Your Diverse Classroom*, author and veteran educator Ignacio Lopez offers hard-won lessons that educators at all levels can apply to teaching, assessing, counseling, and designing interventions for learners from all walks of life. These insights are all rooted in the same core principle: building deep and meaningful relationships with students is the key driver of their success.

In addition to examining the pivotal role of relationship-building among teachers and students in preparing the latter to perform at the highest level, this book offers

- Real-life examples of challenging classroom situations, each with a detailed breakdown of how they were peacefully and nonpunitively resolved;
- Strategies for designing learning environments suited to the individual needs of students and reflective of their cultural backgrounds;
- Ideas for scaffolding students as they experience and internalize epiphanies about what works and what doesn't, both academically and behaviorally; and
- Activities and reflection questions for use in professional development.

Many teachers find balancing the needs of increasingly diverse classrooms made up of learners from increasingly diverse background to be a difficult and often thankless task—and one that takes precious time away from instructional planning. Here, Lopez outlines simple but ingenious steps for addressing these needs holistically, in a way that takes no extra time yet amply enhances the learning experience for students. Clear, practical, and much-needed, *Keeping It Real and Relevant* is the ultimate blueprint for creating a harmonious and successful classroom for kids of all colors, creeds, and kinds.

Ignacio Lopez is an Associate Professor of Education at National Louis University in Chicago. He has worked directly with more than 25 schools in Illinois, Maryland, Florida, and Texas, working directly with teachers in their classrooms and grade-level teams on capacity building, DI, student learning outcomes, and data analysis.

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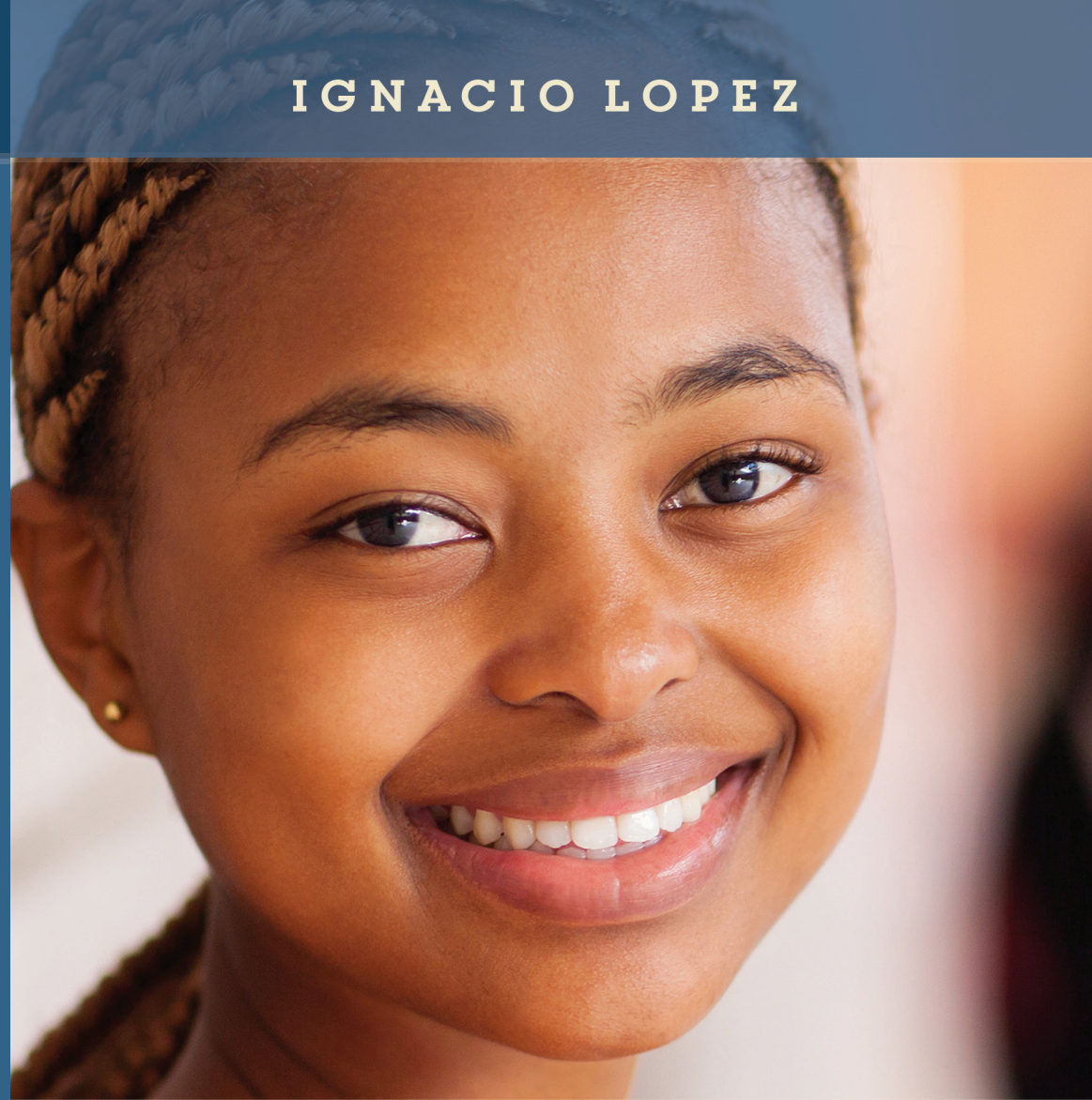
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KEEPING IT REAL AND RELEVANT

LOPEZ

KEEPING IT REAL AND RELEVANT

BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS
IN YOUR DIVERSE CLASSROOM





THE WHOLE CHILD

The ASCD Whole Child approach is an effort to transition from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all children. Through this approach, ASCD supports educators, families, community members, and policymakers as they move from a vision about educating the whole child to sustainable, collaborative actions.

Keeping it Real and Relevant: Building Authentic Relationships in Your Diverse Classroom relates to the **engaged**, **supported**, and **challenged** tenets. For more about the ASCD Whole Child approach, visit www.ascd.org/wholechild.

WHOLE CHILD TENETS

- 1 HEALTHY**
Each student enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle.
- 2 SAFE**
Each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults.
- 3 ENGAGED**
Each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community.
- 4 SUPPORTED**
Each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.
- 5 CHALLENGED**
Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment.

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