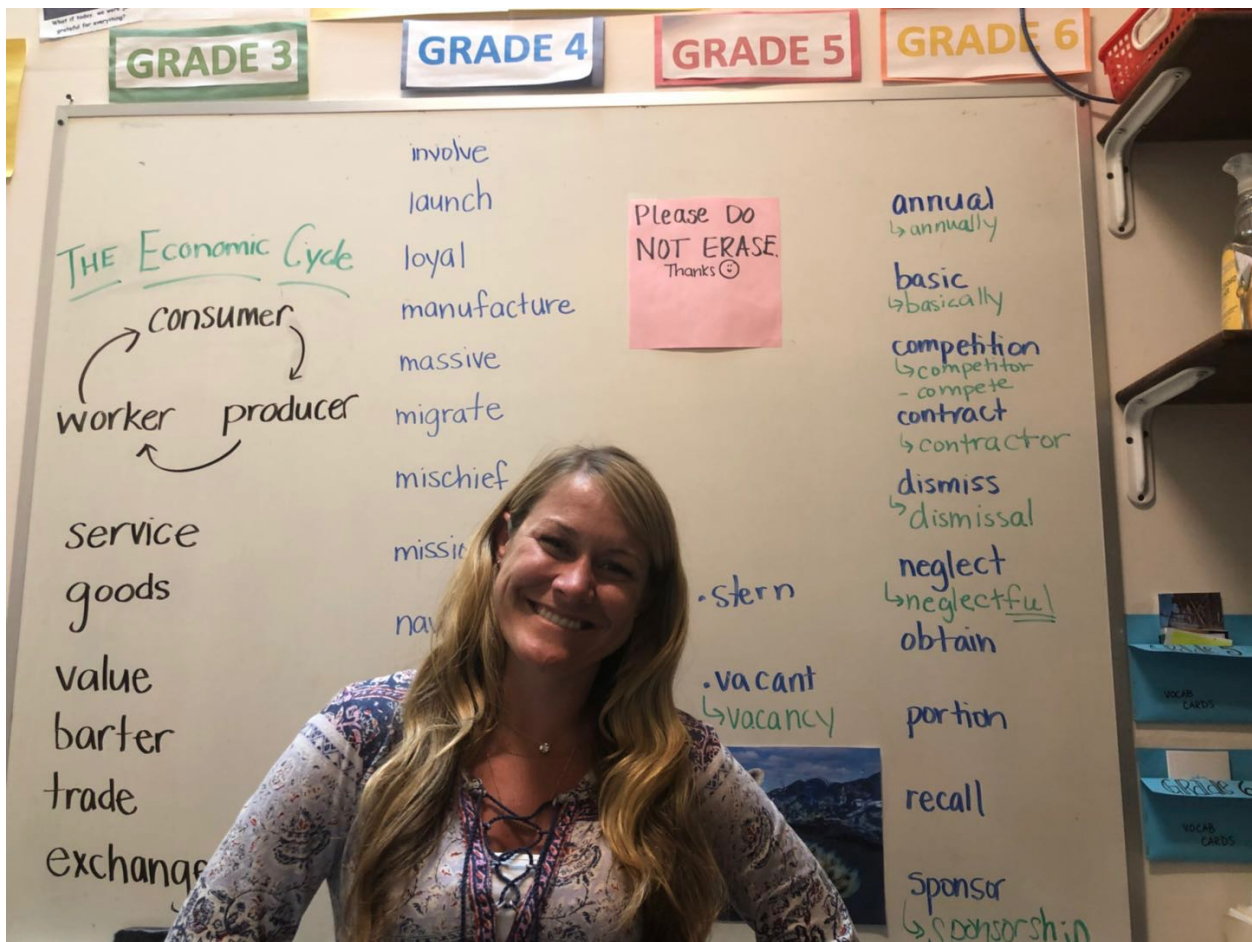


# Laura Connor's Life Expectations



Laura Connor is an EAL teacher at Dwight school. She also taught in Mongolia before she came to Dwight. After she decided to be a teacher, she chose to take interpersonal communications as her major in college. She also chose TESOL as her master. Obviously, Ms. Connor is a really experienced teacher.

1. What was your dream when you were 6 years old?

Ms. Connor: Um. No. When I was a little my dream was to be a fashion designer. I would like sit in my room on my pink chair, and I would draw and create all these designs that I even had this store that I want put avocado. And I thought I really want to be a fashion designer. I really didn't think I wanna to be a teacher until... Um... I was older after college I started coaching, and I loved coaching. And I didn't like the job, that I had had. At the time ends, so I'm backing up my master as teaching.

2. Has your dream changed? And what other dreams did you have?

Ms. Connor: Yea, it has. Um... I think you know your dreams, at least mine. I like change, and so I feel like my dreams change just with the experience, like life experience. When I was in college I wanted to be... Oh, actually when I entered college I had no idea what I wanted to do. And then, I got it wants to be like marketing. That's what I did after college. I also though I want to be in sports management for a little while. I wanted to be a sports announcer for like ESPN television station. And I really enjoy the time I was coaching. And I loved coaching, it made me so happy. And I thought I really like working with kids. And my sister is a teacher, so I would go into her class and visit her to see that's what I really wanted to do. And I just decided was, then I back to school for that.

3. When you were a high school student, how did you think your life would be in the future?

Ms. Connor: Oh, that's a funny question. I don't know. I probably thought that ... I don't know what I thought when I was in high school to be honest. I think when I was in high school, I just thought how to get into college and having fun. My high school wasn't serious as Dwight is, so we didn't worry so much about, like a future career. We kind of just worried about where do we want to go to school, and I was just kind of that. I don't remember really too much. But I knew, I always knew that I wanna to travel. I always knew that.

4. How did your family and friends affect your life expectation?

Ms. Connor: I think my family did because I grew in a very traditional family. And I always, you know, when I was younger I thought I would be married by 27 and I have babies. I don't yet, but I still would like that. I know that will happen, but I am not... I am OK with that because I got to do so much, whereas my mom always says she so jealous about my life because she got marry so young and she has so many babies so young. And she didn't get to travel. And she didn't get to have a career. She didn't get to do her master degree. So I am really lucky for all those things. My friends, I don't know how much they impacted in my life. I don't think they

really. I mean they always there, and I'm still friends with my best friend we were been friends since we were 12. They just been consistent in my life, but I think my family has more influence on my decisions.

5. If you had a child, would you affect your child's life expectation? If so, how?

Ms. Connor: Interesting question. One that I thought about no I think I would guide them as much as I could. I feel like everything I probably tell my child not to get marry and have babies too early. Just because I think they still have too much need to do and see. And once you have kids it's a lot harder to go do all the thing she wants to do. But um... No, I think actually something about my parents I appreciate is that they kind of always let me make my own decisions and they always supported me no matter what. And I think that's really good because you end up what you wanted to do, not what your parents wanted you to do, which makes you happier I hope.

6. Why did you choose to teach in Mongolia and New York?

Ms. Connor: So, I always wanted to live abroad. I studied in abroad in college. I studied abroad in Australia. I always just love traveling. So I started teaching in New York, and I just really wanted to be abroad. And I applied a fellowship program. It's really similar to a scholarship but like for professionals. The government has different programs, and one of them I applied to is called English fellowship program. It's a really great program specific for English teachers. I didn't choose Mongolia, Mongolia chose me. Is that make sense? So you just put your application in there, and they match you to a country. I went through an interview process, so I had go through different stages, kindly like how you get into college.

7. How do you think about the connection between education you got and your careers?

Ms. Connor: Emm... Interesting question. I think my undergrad dealt with interpersonal communications, which kind of like analyzes people's relationships, and analyzes like kind of why people are the way they are. So some of these questions you asking me are interpersonal questions, like did your family impacted you, right? So I was thinking in that understanding has probably made me a better teacher because I can understand my students a lot better, maybe why they are, the way they are. I think as an international teacher, it helped because it gave me a lot of skills to be able to relate to people.

8. If you had another chance to choose your major in college, what would you choose?

Ms. Connor: I mean I probably wouldn't change because I really love my major. But if I had to pick another one, I always want to do psychology. I didn't choose psychology because I'm not really good at science. But I think I didn't have very good science teachers in high school at all. And I think if I kind of had more confidence on science, I would choose psychology.

9. Do you ever regret your decisions about education and your career? If so, how would you want to change the decision?

Ms. Connor: No. Not at all.

10. If there's only one piece of advice that you can give to teenagers like me, what would you say?

Ms. Connor: I would say my probably the biggest piece of advice is to follow your instinct. I probably told myself when I was a teenager too. We worry so much about the future. The future is gonna happen the way it's gonna happen no matter how much we worry. So just trust yourself, and trust the way you feel, and try to follow that more than other people or society is telling you to do.

11. If you had a chance to choose another subject to teach, which subject would you choose?

Ms. Connor: Sometimes, I like teaching a big group of students. Sometimes, I would like to be a regular English teacher, but with EAL too.