



## A Spotlight on Michael DeVita



Meet Michael DiVita, the Treasurer on our Board of Directors and someone who truly aspires to help people achieve something meaningful.

Coming from a middle-class background, Mike was instilled with values of equality, humility, and the belief that education, coupled with hard work, paves the way to economic prosperity. As a business leader, he is inspired to spread his knowledge about achieving financial security.

For Mike, success is not just an individual pursuit; it's a shared journey of growth and empowerment. He believes that embracing failure provides invaluable life lessons. Mike urges aspiring minds to step out of their comfort zones, experiment, and persevere to uncover new learning horizons.

Mike's commitment to E.R.E. is fueled by his lived experiences, his unwavering dedication to our mission, and his vast skill set that adds substantial value to our operations. He says, "I firmly believe education is the most powerful tool to deliver better outcomes, and E.R.E.'s efforts are an extremely strong component of that."

To learn more about Mike, read his full spotlight [here](#).

## E.R.E. Updates

As we look back on 2023, we're excited to recap our achievements. Last year, we tutored 22 students, marking a 16% increase from the previous year, while expanding our leadership team to 32 members, a remarkable 39% growth. In addition, we hosted three fantastic fundraising events: the Back-to-School Fundraiser, Trivia Night in Chicago, and the Popcorn Fundraiser. These accomplishments underscore our dedication to education and community engagement. Thank you for being part of our successful year!

### TESTIMONIALS

Here is what people say about E.R.E.

“

The first tutoring session was great! The coach went over questions on my PSAT and recommended reading books to me.

- 10th grader in Houston TX

“

The tutor has been a great resource for our son. She helped him with the main subjects and she gave him tools to get organized.

- Parent of 12th grader in Houston TX

“

Things are still going well. My student is a lot more comfortable and confident than she used to be and she can often get to the right answers with time.

- Tutor of 11th grader in Chicago IL

### Student Success Spotlight

Adrian, 7th grader in Chicago IL

“

Tutoring has helped Adrian in all aspects of his day-to-day life. He takes all opportunities to utilize his growing vocabulary and ability to read. He is able to initiate his school work without awaiting assistance from peers/teachers. His grades are improving vastly and he is able to navigate daily responsibilities on his own.

- Adrian's mother

“

Adrian is a bright kid with a great personality! He quickly responds to my feedback when we're working on Math and has made great strides.

- Adrian's tutor

Adrian is a Hispanic student with Dyslexia who started E.R.E.'s program as a 6th grader at a PreK level in Language Arts, a K level in Reading, and a 2nd-grade level in Math.

Now, 18 months later, he has improved his Language Arts by the equivalent of 2.3 years, his Reading by the equivalent of 1.5 years, and his Math by the equivalent of 2.3 years! He also showed decreases in anxiety (36%), negative attitude to teachers (21%), and hyperactivity (20%). And he has demonstrated improvements in self-esteem (30%), interpersonal relations (17%), and personal adjustment (8%)!

We are so proud of Adrian and look forward to his successes in this Spring Term.

[Hear Adrian's mom speak about how E.R.E.'s tutoring program has made a positive impact on her son and family!](#)

As we enter 2024 and continue our 4th year of operation, we're excited for our future growth! Our dedication remains unwavering as we strive for even greater achievements in the year ahead. Your support is invaluable on this exciting journey towards a promising year!

**Read and share our recent Blogs for students, parents, and educators:**

- [Winning Scholarships: Steps and Tips](#)
- [The Power of Mentorship in Education](#)
- [Student-Centered Learning Strategies for the Classroom](#)
- [Education Philanthropy: Make a Difference Through Giving](#)

## E.R.E. Announcements

**Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteer [ambassadors](#), [interns](#), [tutors](#), and [professionals](#). As a member of Educate. Radiate. Elevate. you will have the opportunity to collaborate with a varied group of people and make a real difference in society. [Apply now!](#)

**Fundraising Committee:** We are searching for new members to join our dedicated fundraising team! As a member of our Fundraising Committee, you will play a significant role in our early phases of development and help ensure our sustainability for many years to come. [Join today!](#)

**Donors:** We must work together to achieve our objectives of educating equitably, radiating success, and elevating society. Your contribution will provide children from less fortunate backgrounds with the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. [Become a donor today!](#)

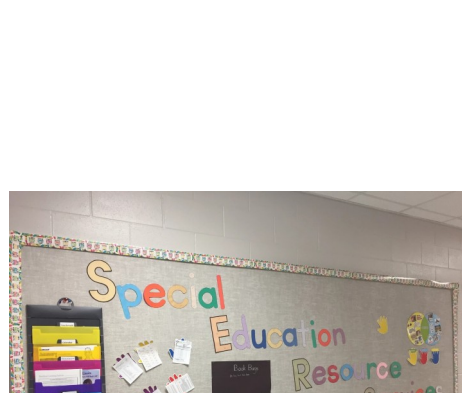
**Bookkeeper:** We are looking for a volunteer Bookkeeper to start ASAP. If you have experience with nonprofit accounting, the non-APR version of QuickBooks, and quarterly accounting and reports - and you want to use your knowledge to make a difference in the world - [apply now!](#)

## Recent News in Education

[Texas school districts lose \\$300 million in federal special education funding](#)

*Texas Public Radio*  
January 11, 2024

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission shocked school districts when it recently announced that Medicaid reimbursements for students in special education would be cut by over \$300,000,000. This funding previously provided for essential needs such as physical therapy, tube feeding, and diaper changes to eligible students in special education. Districts are now left stranded, as it is halfway through the school year and their reduced annual budget amounts have already been used.



*What should Texas schools do now to accommodate students with special needs?*

[Conservative anti-DEI activists claim victory in Harvard leader's fall](#)

*The Washington Post*  
January 5, 2024

Recently, Claudine Gay announced she would resign her position as president of Harvard University after a scathing hearing at the House of Representatives. Many conservatives who stand against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) see her resignation as an important victory in their battle against these policies. Detractors of DEI claim that mediocre workers are unfairly valued over better workers, while supporters of DEI claim that it helps solve systemic issues that disqualify or disenfranchise marginalized groups of people.

*What role do you think DEI should play in our lives?*

We will continue to keep you in the loop with updates about Educate. Radiate. Elevate. as well about education, equity, community news, and the like. If you know someone who is also passionate about helping youth, supporting educational equity, and fostering community development, please forward them this newsletter so they can [sign up!](#)

[Our Website](#)

*If you're not interested in learning about the meaningful and dedicated work of E.R.E. and are no longer passionate about educational equity, you can click the link below to unsubscribe from our emails.*

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