

## Teacher Effectiveness Linked To Height

A new study offers conclusive proof that taller teachers are more effective. Using sophisticated statistical modeling techniques, researchers Tom Able and Eric Fotoshek were able to show that if the least effective (aka the shortest) teachers were removed from the teaching ranks at a rate of just seven percent each year and were replaced by teachers with just average effectiveness (approximately 5' 4.5" tall for women and 5' 10" tall for men), then within a decade American teacher quality would among be the best in the world.

“The key element of this study,” explained Able, “was our ability at the outset to conclusively define teachers’ effectiveness as equivalent to their height, before we even started looking at the data. Once we figured that out, the rest was easy because there is substantial variation in teachers’ height and - unlike other possible

measures of teacher quality - height is very, very stable across years.”

Fotoshek added that the weaker teachers are easily defined as the shorter teachers - who the study definitively shows are shorter. If those teachers are replaced by more effective teachers - the taller teachers who the study definitively shows are taller - the result is very clearly that the average teaching force becomes more effective (taller).

“The beauty of this research,” Able said, “is that I’m pretty sure we could also improve teachers’ effectiveness this way if we were to use their hair color, their age, or even their students’ value-added test scores. All we have to do is make sure our outcome measure of teacher effectiveness is the same thing we’re manipulating in our models.”

---

## Gov. Walker Says He Did It To Impress Michelle Rhee

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker yesterday admitted that his union-busting agenda was just his way of trying to impress former DC schools chancellor Michelle Rhee.

Walker says he first became entranced by Rhee when he saw a [video clip](#) of her talking about taping shut the mouths of her students. Then, when he watched *Waiting for Superman*, he realized they were eternally connected. “When I heard her bashing unions, I knew she was talking to me. It was like we were on our own private wavelength, and I knew what she meant for me to do. She was telling me to break the backs of the unions. I couldn’t fight it.”

According to Walker, he started laying out his plan the very next day. “People think it was the Koch brothers and their billions, but it wasn’t. I was driven by my muse. I could have never found the strength were it not for Michelle.”

But things haven’t gone as Walker had hoped.

For one thing, Rhee started hanging out with other crazy Republican governors, Chris Christie of New Jersey and Rick Scott of Florida, both of whom wooed her with promises of massive privatizing of public education.

Walker was unsure if Rhee was just playing coy or if she had forsaken him. But a new opportunity presented itself when he learned that Rhee routinely gave [awards to schools](#) that [cheated to improve their test scores](#). “She clearly likes ‘bad boys,’” he realized. So, as an act of final desperation, he decided to [flagrantly violate the Wisconsin open meetings law](#).

Alas, even this offering has failed to catch Rhee’s eye. Most days now, Governor Walker sits alone, staring sadly at the life-sized posters of Rhee that adorn his office and wondering what he did wrong. He’s sure, though, that it’s unionized teachers’ fault. “Someday a real rain will come and wash all this scum out of the classrooms,” he said between muffled sobs.