**Most Important Lessons Learned**

**in working with an up-and-coming reader**

* Make it impossible for student to fail
* Relationships, engagement, and the right texts drive everything
* Raise expectations for what might be possible
* Widely expand what counts as a “text”
* Honor student’s choices
* Look for the helpers
* Skills within a familiar context, not an exclusive focus on skills in isolation, are easiest for the learner
* Eyes-on-text is paramount. Quantity of reading matters
* What happens with an intriguing book in a student’s hands can be magical

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Concordia University, Seward, NE