Michele McKay, Genesee Community College

I am an educator, parent and pediatric nurse. There are many challenges to education, the foremost being that people have to understand the value of education. Unfortunately, our current society values fame and money, and knowledge is no longer power. Our education system in New York State is broken. When I go to a store and a young person cannot even count out correct change for me, I am concerned. When I am invited to be a Co-Principle Investigator on a grant to increase literacy rates in community college students, I am concerned. As a pediatric nurse, where I see anxiety disorders related to stress rising in children of all ages, I am concerned. Will this increase if we subject young children to even more testing pressure? As a nurse and nurse educator where I see passing rates in New York State for the National Certification Exam for Registered Nurses in the bottom fifth in the United States, I am concerned. As a parent of children that are in college for engineering, I recognize the value of education and I know the work and sacrifices it took as a parent to help my children achieve this. However, I am not sure that Common Core Standards are the answer to more educated students when there is no research to validate that the common core works. Why are there not schools piloting this program and giving feedback to ensure that they work? We do not sell new drugs without researching them, nor do cars get sold without safety testing. If you want people to believe in something, then you have to prove to them that it works.