The Sanford Inspire Program conducted a survey to investigate the characteristics and skills of inspirational teachers. Responses were collected from 158 individuals, ranging in age from 16 to 65 years, from 20 different states and 12 countries. Participants were asked seven open-ended questions about the teachers who had inspired them as students. The survey was administered both in paper and online from November 2013 to January 2014.

The image above represents responses given when participants were asked to, “describe your most inspirational teacher in one word.” More frequent responses are indicated by a larger text size. **According to survey respondents, inspirational teachers are passionate, inspirational, motivating, caring, funny, amazing and awesome.** We tend to remember these teachers many years after we have left their classroom. The Sanford Inspire Program provides teachers with the tools to inspire students and have a lasting impact.