



South Carolina Teacher Leadership

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We are delighted to bring you the first issue of the 2020-21 South Carolina Teacher Leadership newsletter. Our goal is to provide a collaborative resource that highlights state and district level teacher leadership activities, outlines issues related to South Carolina education, and sparks ideas among Teacher Forums.

"[W]e all make habitual, self-limiting choices. It's as natural as a sunset and as fundamental as gravity. It's how our brains are wired...Motivation changes exactly nobody...Human beings change through study, habit, and stories."
--David Goggins

"Understanding is the one-dimensional comprehension of the intellect. It leads to knowledge. Realization is three-dimensional--a simultaneous comprehension of the head, heart, and instinct. It comes from direct experience."
--Dan Millman

"Never have so many people had so much access to so much knowledge and yet have been so resistant to learning anything."
--Tom Nichols

2020-21 South Carolina Teacher Forum



Earlier this month, the Teacher of the Year from each of the state's districts convened virtually for the 2020-21 SC Teacher Forum Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Imagine." The 2020 National Teacher of the Year, Tabatha Rosproy, shared with the teachers how her pre-schoolers were change-makers. Participants began to imagine what education and teacher leadership can look like going forward as they learned more about unique ways to foster community impact, self-identification as a teacher leader, goal-setting, the teacher forums, and many other topics. Sarah Gams, the 2021 SC Teacher of the Year, shared her thoughts about doing things differently and reimagining what has to go into the proverbial pickle jar. The SC Honor Roll teachers and a Veteran State Teacher of the Year each led a session related to education issues.

A Look at the SC Teacher Forum Conference

Let's reimagine our definition of teacher leadership and include ourselves.



Not me!

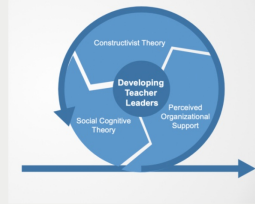
"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."



- John Lennon



What conditions and motivations are necessary for teachers to learn to new leadership skills?



Surrealist Philosophy, Oversimplified and Abridged

"The literary, intellectual, and artistic movement called Surrealism sought a revolution against the constraints of the rational mind; and by extension, the rules of a society they saw as oppressive."

Surrealists believed they were agents of social change.

--MoMA Learning, Museum of Modern Art



Invitation

We are inviting teacher leaders to participate in a virtual book study. There are three asynchronous virtual meetings; you can participate at any time on the designated days.

We will be reading Martin Lindstrom's book,
Small Data: The Tiny Clues that Uncover Huge Trends.

Please share the invitation with teacher leaders in your District Teacher Forum. All are welcome.

*Use the link below to sign for the book study.

*Join Goodreads and find CERRA's Book Club.

*Introduce yourself by January 7, 2021.

*Join in on the discussion in the threads using the following schedule:

Introduction-Chapter 2 Jan. 28th

Chapters 3-5 Feb. 18th

Chapters 6-8 Mar. 18th

[Join the book club using this link](#)

Reading Corner

Martin Lindstrom's *Small Data:* *The Tiny Clues that Uncover Huge Trends*

From the Foreword Written by Chip Heath

On Big Data...

"In today's business environment, big data inspires religious levels of devotion and Martin Lindstrom is an atheist."

By highlighting the virtues of Small Data, Lindstrom illuminates the problems of Big Data.

*Big Data does not spark insight. New ideas comes from juxtaposition, and big data is usually organized in databases that are too narrow.

*Big Data is data. That means that it favors analysis rather than emotion.

"Our businesses will not improve through Big Data alone. We need to follow Martin and explore Rich Data. Deep Data. Even if it comes in the form of Small Data. Our businesses will be better for it."

David Goggins' *Can't Hurt Me:* *Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds*

On Realizing our Capabilities...

Something is not true just because you believe it is. In fact, denial is our comfort zone.

Heraclitus once wrote about men on a battlefield, "Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior." From your first breath you are eligible for one of two things: to die or to become the One Warrior.

"It's time to go to war with yourself."

Dan Millman's *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*

On Learning and Gaining Greater Understanding...

What you want to learn determines whether or not you have the right teacher.

Like a gas tank, "you are overflowing with preconceptions, full of useless knowledge. You hold many facts and opinions, yet know little of yourself. Before you can learn, you'll have to first empty your tank."

Tom Nichols' *The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters*

On Expertise...

"True expertise is an intangible but recognizable combination of education, talent, experience, and peer affirmation."

Credentials or licensing is a start, and they suggest a level of quality.

Talent is the key separation between those who just have a credential and those who have expertise.

Experience and longevity are necessary components of expertise that help one survive a trial by fire within a profession.

Experts

*stay engaged in the field.

*Seek to improve their skills.

*learn from mistakes.

*have visible track records.

*get better over time.

**CERRA can provide support for your District Forum.
Contact Suzanne Koty at Suzanne@cerra.org for more information.
Options: Organizational support, presentations, strategic planning, etc.**

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