



South Carolina Teacher Leadership

February 2021 | Volume 5 Issue 2

We are delighted to bring you the second 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.

"The vast majority of us are slaves to our minds. Most don't even make the first effort when it comes to mastering their thought process because it's a never-ending chore and impossible to get right every time. The average person thinks 2,000-3,000 thoughts per hour. That's thirty to fifty per minute! Some of those shots will slip by the goalie. It's inevitable."
--David Goggins

"No amount of knowledge will nourish or sustain your spirit; it can never bring you ultimate happiness or peace. Life requires more than knowledge; it requires intense feeling and constant energy. Life demands right action if knowledge is to come alive."
--Dan Millman

"And even among experts, there are experts."
--Tom Nichols

2020-21 South Carolina Teacher Forum



Throughout the month of February and into the first week of March, the 2020-21 South Carolina Teacher Forum is holding virtual professional development meetings with regional groups of the District Teachers of the Year.

It is a packed day with guest presenters and a variety of perspectives. Patrick Kelly from the PSTA and Sherry East from the SCEA join us to talk about advocacy, staying positive and focused, and the value of marigolds. The CERRA staff share information about the state of education and various recruitment and retention programs. The participants work on developing their platforms and learn more about Social-Emotional Learning. Each meeting ends with a special message from one of the 2019-2020 Honor Roll Teachers.

Upcoming Events



There are several upcoming events.

The book study has two remaining "meeting" dates: February 18th and March 18th.

Many District Teachers of the Year and other teacher leaders have volunteered to participate in the SC Teaching Fellows Interview Days on February 20th and 27th. Some have also submitted presentation ideas for the Junior Conference on April 17th. All of these events will be held virtually.

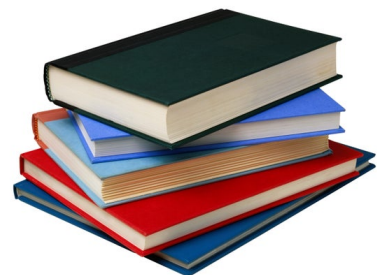
Our state superintendent, Molly Spearman, will meet with the District Teachers of the Year on March 11th. Registration is required.

There are two upcoming mentor trainings: March 23-24 and April 21-22.

The interviews for the next South Carolina Teacher of the Year are planned for April 12th.

#Loveteaching week is Feb. 14-21. This is an opportunity to share positive messages about the profession.

Reading Corner



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

On noticing...

We are less likely to notice our surroundings when we are drawn to our cell phones and other distractions. Even if we notice something, we have gotten out of the habit of piecing together clues and noticing when one clue negates the others. This is called Small Mining. Eventually, if you allow yourself, you will find a group of clues that tell a narrative and teach you something essential about a person or a group.

On cultivating ideas...

Good ideas tend to materialize around water. From the Greek mathematicians to song writers, many of our great thinkers report their best ideas come to them in a pool, in the shower, and around bodies of water. It is at these times that we are forced into the present, separated from our phones and other distractions, and immersed in a routine. Activities such as running, biking, and gardening also involve implicit, automatic motions that open the mind.

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

On self-improvement

If you want to change something or grow, it is important to first be honest with yourself. You have to "get raw and real." You cannot begin to take the next step until you abolish the ego and be blunt with yourself so that you own the goal. Goggins recommends you use an Accountability Mirror and write down on sticky notes what your goal is and what each step is. Once your mirror is full of notes, you can't ignore the dirty mirror. Start working the steps.

Dan Millman's *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*

On integration of self...

We often operate with our mind, our body, OR our heart leading the way. When we can integrate the fragmented parts, we can function as the warrior we are meant to be.

The Mind	The Body	The Heart
Resolute	Lithe	Compassion
Flexible	Supple	
Clear	Sensitive	
Free of Doubt	Filled with Energy	

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

On experts...

Even within a given profession full of experts, there are people who know more about particular subtopics than their professional peers. True expertise, is "an intangible but recognizable combination of education, talent, experience, and peer affirmation." Individual talents and expertise should be recognized and utilized. Experts constantly strive for improvement in both knowledge and skills and they stay engaged in the field.

**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.**

CERRA's Teacher Leadership Team

Jenna Hallman, PhD
Program Director
hallmanj@cerra.org

Suzanne Koty, PhD
Program Facilitator
suzanne@cerra.org

Jan Patterson
Program Specialist
pattersonj@cerra.org

Sarah Gams
2021 SC Teacher of the Year

