

TO: Hawaii International Conference on Education
FROM: Sarah J. Noonan, Ed.D.
DATE: July 31, 2002
RE: Workshop Proposal

Topic Area: Educational Administration

Workshop Proposal:

Take a "Life History Walk" and Discover the Authentic Leader within You

Key Words:

Leadership, Group Dynamics, Faculty Development

Abstract:

Discover the authentic leader within you by identifying your values, beliefs, strengths, and experience. Participants will draw from six different "life cards" in an interactive session and explore their motivation and internal standards for leadership. The presenter will debrief the activity with the participants and discuss ways the activity can be used to develop leadership, build trust in group settings, explore experiences related to diversity, and identify internal motivators for leadership and service. This workshop is useful for K-12 educators as well as professors in higher education who teach courses in the topic areas of leadership and group dynamics

Presenter:

Sarah J. Noonan, Ed.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Educational Leadership
School of Education
Mail #MOH 217
1000 LaSalle Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota USA 55403-2009
Telephone: 651-962-4897

Facsimile: 651-962-4169
sjnoonan@stthomas.edu

Full Presentation Proposal:

Take a "Life History Walk" and Discover the Authentic Leader within You

Abstract

Discover the authentic leader within you by identifying your values, beliefs, strengths, and experience. Participants will draw from six different "life cards" in an interactive session and explore their motivation and internal standards for leadership.

Proposal

The authentic leader within you is revealed to others when you lead in a way that is natural to you and incorporates your personal mission, values, beliefs, talents, interests, strengths, and experience. You might think of your life as the first course in your leadership development. Your life history is made up of your experience and the choices you made to transform your potential into the visible talents and strengths that you offer to others as a leader. Your Life Map is your personal record of the challenges you have faced and survived and the routes you have selected to develop your talents. The life card suits are: (1) family and relationship history, (2) life factors, (3) milestones, (4) critical life events, (5) peak learning experiences and (6) influential people. Participants will draw from six different life cards and share their experiences in an interactive session.

Following a debriefing activity, participants will discuss how this learning exercise and tool may help students identify their motivation and internal standards for leadership and service. The underlying assumption of this exercise is that you develop your potential for leadership based on the choices you make and the knowledge and skills that you gain from the experience of life. Learning how to get along with others and successfully navigating life's challenges

contributes to your preparation for leadership. When you are a leader in your life, your initial focus is your personal well being and development as an individual. When you are a leader of others, your focus is on the development and success of others without abandoning your authentic self. Your life and what you have learned from living your life, is your leadership capacity. This capacity grows as you expand your knowledge and experience and learn to put your talents to work for others as a leader. Preparing for a leadership role involves the inner work of self-discovery and reflection. Successful leaders are self-aware. They understand who they are as individuals and how they impact others. When students take a life history walk, they learn to identify the key lessons they have learned and its impact on their leadership capacity. Take a life walk with your colleagues and learn how to discover the authentic leader in you!