

# Finding the Leader Within You

## Empowering School Media Leaders

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# *Influencers For This Session*

## **Ten Roles for Teacher Leaders**

*by Cindy Harrison and Joellen Killion*

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## **Professional Learning Community**

*Learning Team E2- Wake County*

**“The mission of the American Association of School Librarians is to advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library media field.”**

**AASL**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aboutaasl/missionandgoals/aaslmissiongoals.cfm>

**“Leadership is the ability to influence or inspire others to achieve shared goals.”**



**Dees, et al., 2007**

# Why become a leader?

- Educate others about our role
- Educate others about exemplary library media programs and their impact
- Advocacy
- Growth – personal and professional

**Or else . . .**

# “Consider the following information from the National School Boards Association:

- Every two or three years, the knowledge base doubles.
- Every day, seven thousand scientific and technical articles are published.
- Satellites orbiting the globe send enough data to fill nineteen million volumes in the Library of Congress – every two weeks.
- High school graduates have been exposed to more information than their grandparents were in their lifetime.”
- There will be as much change in the next three decades as there was in the last three centuries.”

Frost, 2005

# One more reason why . . . Student Achievement

- Strong library media programs and strong library media specialists are linked to student achievement. (Hamilton-Pennell, Lance, Rodney, & Hainer, 2000)
- No Child Left Behind
- Accountability
- Partnerships with students



Strategic

Driven

Responsive

Influential

Involved

Risk-taker

Proactive

Prepared

Supportive

Committed

Focused

Organized

LEADER



“Leaders can articulate a vision and inspire others to not only understand it but want to become part of it. . . . [L]eaders are people that other people want to follow.”

Campbell, 2009

# Time to Change

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist waits for the wind to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”



*William Arthur Ward*

- Old Way: “*Administration Down*”  
Waiting for them to change for the benefit of my library program
- New Way: “*Media Specialist Up*”  
I am the change that will impact my library program and my field

## **Beware . . .**

- Change takes time
- Change may come with conflict

**Become the empowered  
teacher leader that builds influence.**



# Get Your Administrator on Board!

- Communicate
- Big Picture
- Support
- Influence

# Lead by Using Data

- Different kinds of data
- Use data to drive instruction



# Lead Within Your School

- Communicate
- Connect with others
- Committees
- Visionary



# Lead as Curriculum Specialists

- Big picture
- Your curriculum
- Show them how

# Lead as Instructional Specialists

- Best practices and theory
- Student-centered
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century ready

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>



# Lead through Reading

- As key to student achievement
- For all readers
- Promotion

# Lead as Resource Sharers

- For teachers and other SLMS's
- For students
- For parents

# Lead as Mentors for New Teachers and Media Colleagues

- Connect
- Share expertise



# Lead by Facilitating Learning for Colleagues

- Plan
- Do
- Reflect

# Lead through Technology

- Break out
- Be aware
- Implement



# Lead in Ethics and Integrity

- Intellectual Freedom
- Ethical use of information
- Integrity



# Lead in the Greater Community

- Network
- Get involved

# Lead as a Learner

- Read
- Professional development
- Professional learning communities
- Portfolio
- National Board Certification
- Reflect

# Becoming a **LEADER** is a *learning process*

“Becoming a leader doesn’t happen overnight. One activity or program won’t do it. The process is ongoing. You start small, build on your successes, and learn from your failures.”

Weisburg and Toor, 2004

# Plan of Action to Leadership

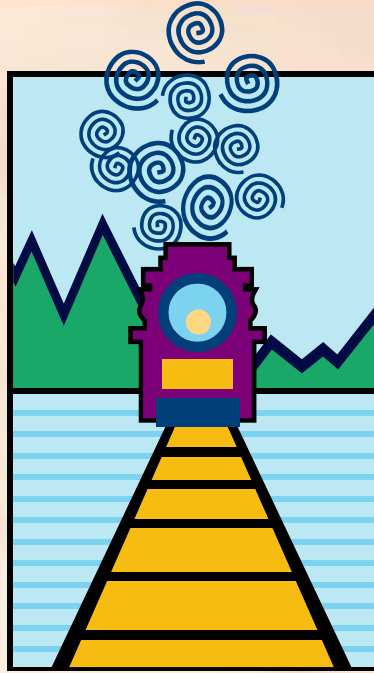
- Start small
- Look for opportunities
- Choose 3 things to focus on
- Develop a plan of action and have alternative approaches
- Learn from your mistakes
- Keep trying

# Commit to Change and Commit to Lead

“If you do what you have always done then you’ll get what you have always gotten.”

-- Tony Robbins

- Keep improving, keep growing
- Encourage others to change with you
- Find your passion and go for it!



"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

—Will Rogers

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