



Grant Writing Part II: Step by Step - By Avni Dalal

So how do you get a grant award? Here is a step-by-step process I use (inspiration from the Grant Writing Center Nonprofit Org Proposal Development Workshop 2011 training manual)

A. Define what you are seeking funding for

1. Who is the target population? Are you serving children, disadvantaged individuals, or the elderly? How many participants will you serve in each program/iteration?
2. What will you provide the participants? Is it a service like job training or autism-friendly camp, or a tangible item like shelter and food?
3. Where will your program/idea be delivered? Will participants have to come to you, or will you go to them?
4. When do you plan to deliver your program/idea? When applying for grants, allow at least 6 months, preferably 9 months to a year, between the date you submit the proposal and the start date of the program or project.
5. Why is this important? What lasting impact and measurable benefit will participants receive? It is crucial to include evaluation and feedback in the design of the program or idea to show the successes for future funders.

My Style of Leadership - By Stephanie Dulmage

When I reflect on the term teacher leadership, what comes to mind are these key ideas learner, visionary, passionate, committed, highly engaged, innovative, and reflective

Teacher leadership is about impacting the learning culture and functioning as change agents in your classroom, school, or district. Teacher leaders are critical to the growth and evolution of a school district and play a crucial role in the instructional leadership cog of the system. Teacher leadership is not about teacher power. It's about a passionate pursuit of extreme performance and ideas - with a deep questioning, learning, sharing, and collaborative attitude. Teacher leaders must be learners and risk-takers, work toward continual growth and improvement, question and reflect but also understand that it is not solely about their learning, growth, and aspirations. Teacher leadership is about supporting your colleagues toward developing their leadership and growth capacities and helping your students realize their "greatness" and potential. Most importantly, teacher leaders need to have a clear understanding of the vision and mission and demonstrate in their daily practice an unwavering commitment to excellence in education and preparing our students for their futures.

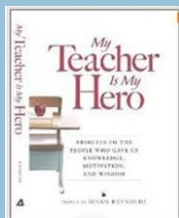
Teacher leadership is being at the forefront of educational reform and addressing efforts such as these key ideas:

- **Key to educational reform - be a proactive voice not one that complains, focuses on the negative, finger-points & continually blames others.**
- **Key to educational reform - don't continue to be part of the problem; be part of the solution.**

(Leadership, cont.)

- Key to educational reform - embrace and take an active role in defining new teacher evaluations that focus on growth, reflection, and ownership. **OWN THE PROFESSION!**
- Key to educational reform - speak up when a colleague is not doing what's best for students or worse.
- Key to educational reform - take an active role in your professional development at universities so you can impact and have a voice in teacher preparation.
- Key to educational reform - ALWAYS be a professional and a proactive, reflective learner.
- Key to educational reform - adopt a growth mind-set, be innovative & open, encourage generative thinking, and gain respect for the profession by your actions.
- Key to educational reform - create classroom environments that are flexible for students, encourage & open up global awareness and thinking, and engage students in their own learning.
- Key to educational reform - create a virtual PLN, network and become part of the collective voice in education.
- Key to educational reform - think outside of the box, routinely engage in action research and document/publicize the results.
- Key to educational reform - take action, be a change agent, and lead.

Feel free to follow my teacher leadership blog at <http://educationvisionleadership.edublogs.org> or connect via Twitter:



FEBRUARY BOOK TALK
My Teacher Is My Hero edited by
Susan Reynolds, Adams Media, 2008

I've decided to be "soft" for this book review because this little book is such an inspiring gem that I can't imagine anyone in our profession not being moved by it. The book is sub-titled "Tributes To People Who Gave Us Knowledge, Motivation And Wisdom" –Life Lessons From People Who Care. From the book's back cover: "Great teachers are the unsung heroes of our lives. More than mere educators, they don't just dictate facts and check spelling, they transform lives. In [this book], you'll meet more than 50 unforgettable teachers who go the extra mile so their students can go the extra mile as well—making the impact that lasts long after the classroom. This book is an uplifting, reminder about why we went into this profession and of the power of teachers who touch both our hearts and our minds. A great read, especially on a down day! BTW, it would also make a great gift!



*Our Most Recent Podcasts –
Podcasts for Leaderful Schools*

Just before the holidays, we had a delightful conversation with Dr. Diane Ravitch. She talked to us about the new edition of her book *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education* (New York: Basic Books, 2010). You can find this interview at Volume 5 Episode 8.

We also had an opportunity to talk to Oakland University's Dean of the School of Education and Health Services, Louis Gallien and the new chair of Teacher Development and Educational Studies, Dr. Nancy Brown. They talked to us about their vision of teacher education for the future in Volume 5 Episode 9.

Wayne/Westland Systems Change Project Update – Jennifer Williams

Although the district has been implementing Professional Learning Communities for the last seven years, the level to which individual schools and teams feel comfortable with the process and are using it with maximum effectiveness varies. Our goal is to increase communication between highly effective teams and teams who may be struggling in order to disseminate best practices. Additionally, the district is modeling the PLC process at all levels. District administrators, principals, and teachers are all working in collaborative teams.

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