Excerpts from Students

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Leading Leaders: Pedagogical Strategies to Ignite the Leader *within*!

Ann H Cary, Cindy Collins, Gwen George Loyola University New Orleans





Habits of the Mind: *Leadership* as a *Steward* of a field or enterprise

- Read: Substance and Growth Points
- Awareness of and disposition to critically examine Assumptions
- Discriminate between Knowledge and Beliefs
- Willingness to Change: Argument and Evidence
- Seek and Use Criticism (feedback)
- Be Open to Surprise!
- Examine disconfirming evidence, seek alternate explanations

(excerpted from *Envisioning the future of doctoral education*,2006,Carnegie Foundation)



Education as Reflective Practice: Igniting Leadership Potential

- Reflection can be taught
- Method to integrate theory, research and practice
- Adults learn by challenging habitual thinking, &
- Questioning foundations of mental models and current perspectives.

Dewey(1933);Kolb(1984);Schon(1987);Mezirow(1998);Knowles and Smith(2002); Langley & Brown(2010)



Theoretical Underpinnings

- **Transformational Theory** (Mezirow, 2004)
- ♦ (Perspective: Transformation → Independent Thinking)
 - a. Critical reflection
 - b. Rational/reflective discourse
- **Experiential Learning Theory**(Kolb, 1984; Baker, Jensen & Kolb, 2005)
- Conversation or Dialogue



Leadership Pedagogy



✤ Narrative

✤ Interactive



Narrative Strategies

- Digital Stories
- Synthesis of Nursing Knowledge
- Learning Community
- Interpretive Scholarship



Interactive Strategies

- Attitude makes all the difference
- Collaboration
- Participatory Inclusion
- Active Engagement / Listening



Translating Leadership Research to Practice: a Leadership Course for DNP Students

- First things first: the research (Yukl, 2010; Leadership Quarterly)
- Leadership habits assessed (Disc©)
- Professional coaching/feedback
- Commit to a leadership plan: Why, What (How), Where, When
- Identify accountability to self and classmates; test application; seek feedback
- Engage in Leadership Journaling (Drucker, 2006)
- Virtual Book Club: Incorporate contemporary issues into perspectives, strategies and new practices



Summary

- Utilizing the "Habits of the Mind" (Carnegie, 2006) approach to doctoral education is an essential framework for Leadership
- Translating Leadership Research to Practice application entails internalization, validation, risk taking for change, reflective practice, coaching, and accountability
- This cognitive apprenticeship "approach" moving from observation to coached practice, and giving ample time to practice new ways of thinking while receiving feedback on performance-has demonstrated self-reported improvement in leaders. (Benner et al, 2010; Ding,2005)



Summary

My own pedagogical approaches have resulted from discernment in strategies as evidenced by students' teaching me what works, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellowship, and those leaders for whom I have worked who modeled effective and ineffective ways of leading.

"I am indebted to all for contributing to my own leadership journey." (A. CARY)

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