

Foreword

You can't pick up a newspaper or watch the evening news without hearing or reading about the effects of the "Great Recession." Unlike the Great Depression of the 1930s, which was ended by the onset of World War II, we now generally realize the importance of and the connection between education, job retention, and job creation. The question is, Just how can we educate all children to the college and work-ready levels at scale with quality?

This is, of course, a problem not only of will and courage but, more importantly, of leadership, and of how to sequence this sea change in a coherent manner without overrunning our capacity to sustain the quality. It also is enough of a national problem that it is causing us to open our minds to new emerging theories and practices that will spur the evolution of new frontiers of organization, structure, and culture in our schools.

This book causes the reader to examine and explore several basic building blocks of these new frontiers, such as how research critically measures our brain functions and learning, and how our leadership strengths, as defined by Gallup, provide insight into our day-to-day decision making. Feinstein and Kiner then take it one step further and connect brain function to learning and leadership styles in understandable and actionable daily leadership situations.

The chapters depict real challenges faced routinely by school leaders. The authors then bridge the gap of theory to practice and execution in a format that many practitioners will find helpful and thought provoking. The endeavor to address these complex issues in so few pages is enormous; however, the authors have condensed and included many of the emerging ideas about how our brain function supports the learning process and their implication for leadership. Intriguing is the idea of the learning leaders' strengths and how they affect the execution of any agreed-upon plan of action.

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This book can cause one to question, rethink, and scrutinize some long-held myths about how we learn. It also will provide some potential insights about how to apply these emerging fields of knowledge to the practical, everyday life of a school leader.

Remember, it is always what we think we know “for certain” that has caused us so much grief. Keep an open mind, and use the information in this book as an entry point for further exploration.

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