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Corwin Publishes Groundbreaking Whitepaper about Improving Education Outcomes by Leading Researcher of Visible Learning

John Hattie’s “Education Cargo Cults Must Die” now available to educators focused on systematic and sustained student achievement and growth

Los Angeles, CA (September 25, 2018) – Corwin, the leading professional learning provider for K-12 educators, today announced the global publication of its latest white paper, Education Cargo Cults Must Die. The provocative paper, written by John Hattie of the University of Melbourne, Australia, and Arran Hamilton of Cognition Education, not only argues that inequality in global education outcomes can be solved, but it explores the ways that educators can overcome limitations of neuroscience and their own inherent biases to close achievement gaps.

John Hattie, Laureate Professor at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, has partnered with Corwin for five years and has spent more than 25 years researching performance indicators and evaluation in education. He introduced the concept of “Visible Learning” in a book by the same name originally published in 2008, and later went on to launch Visible Learningplus, a professional development program now available to educators through Corwin.

Visible Learning emphasizes an enhanced role for teachers as they become evaluators of their own teaching. Hattie’s research is the world’s largest evidence base on what works best in school to improve learning, as he has examined and synthesized more than 1,400 meta-analyses comprising more than 90,000 studies that involved more than 250 million students around the world.

“Throughout my research, I’ve found that cognitive biases often lead to misjudgments of the effectiveness of educational resources and even teaching methods,” said Hattie. “Education Cargo Cults Must Die explores ways in which we as educators can be honest and reflective, so we see ourselves as our students see us. We examine how formative assessment can help us overcome our challenges and remain focused on the evidence of the impact that we’re having on our learners, rather than whether or not we’re satisfied that a particular approach we’ve invented or implemented was the ‘right’ one.”
“In highly developed countries, up to 35% of students are leaving secondary school without the appropriate knowledge and skills needed for success in college and career, and, in developing countries, the challenges are, as Hattie and Hamilton say, ‘almost too depressing to document,’” reflected Dr. Julie Smith, Corwin’s Senior Global Director of Visible Learning. But it doesn't have to be this way. Hattie argues that the 4% of global education spending that currently goes to professional learning products and services if employed more effectively could be the ‘silver bullet’ to closing the achievement gaps in education.”

Download the white paper, Education Cargo Cults Must Die, here.

About Corwin

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