

Preface

W elcome to the Connected Educators Series.

The past few years have provided momentous changes for educators: Whether it's the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, educational innovations due to technology, teacher and administrator evaluations, or budget cuts, what is clear is that educational reforms come in different shapes and sizes. For many connected educators, one of the invaluable group support systems essential during these times is the professional learning network, also known as our PLN.

Our PLN can provide innovative ideas, current resources, and sound educational practices that stretch our thinking in ways we haven't yet experienced. Equally as important as how a PLN can professionally expand our horizons, it introduces new friends that we look forward to meeting in person. This Connected Educator Series brings together some important members of my PLN. These are educators with a depth of knowledge and level of experience that helps me stay current and up-to-date with my educational practices.

In this series, my book, *Flipping Leadership Doesn't Mean Reinventing the Wheel*, takes the innovative idea of flipping classrooms and presents it at the school leader level, engaging the school community in new and innovative ways. In *Connected Leadership*, Spike Cook shares his experiences moving from a novice to digital leadership and illustrates how other educators can do the same.

Digital experts, Steven Anderson and Tom Whitby, help increase your digital experience by using Twitter to locate a PLN to engage in daily professional development. In *The Relevant Educator*, Tom and Steven provide a plethora of tools to use, and define each and every one. Using those same tools, in their book *The Power of Branding*, Tony Sinanis and Joe Sanfelippo help you to brand your school in order to create a positive focus on the learning happening within the four walls. In his book, *All Hands on Deck*, Brad Currie offers us ways to engage with families and students using old techniques with new innovative approaches.

In *Teaching the iStudent*, Mark Barnes provides insight into the life and mind of the iStudent, and in *Empowered Schools, Empowered Students*, Pernille Ripp focuses on **empowering** students and teachers. Also in the series, in *Diversity and Connected Learning*, Rafranz Davis shows how equity and diversity is vital to the social media movement, and why that is so important to education as we move forward.

Kristen Swanson from the Edcamp Foundation not only focuses on why the Edcamp model is a new innovative way to provide excellent professional development, but also explains how you can create an Edcamp in your school district in *The Edcamp Model: Powering Up Professional Learning*.

The books in the Connected Educator Series are designed to read in any order, and each provides information on the tools that will keep us current in the digital age. We also look forward to continuing the series with more books from experts on connectedness.

As Michael Fullan has said for many years, technology is not the right driver, good pedagogy is. The books in this connected series focus on practices that lead to good pedagogy in our digital age. To assist readers in their connected experience, we created the Corwin Connected Educators companion website (www.corwin.com/connectededucator) where readers can connect with the authors and find resources to help further their experience. It is our hope and intent to meet you where you are in your digital journey, and elevate you as educators to the next level.

Peter M. DeWitt, EdD @PeterMDeWitt