



# Leadership Development

*Anywhere, Anytime*

Practical Tips for School Leaders – #40

August 20, 2020

## *The Healing Power of Love*

As human beings traverse the journey of life, we experience joy, sorrow, uncertainty and at times, deep sorrow. Do you recall the people who supported you through the toughest times? How did they reach out to you to help you heal? Why were you able to trust their intentions were only directed toward your recovery? Educators have the ability to heal with love. An educator is nurturing, other centered, humble and desires the best for every person they work with from the youngest child to the oldest adult. The gratification of encouraging and assisting others is the reward at the end of a very long day. School leaders witness the growth of students and teachers from the first day of school through the end of the year and beyond. Many educators are still in touch with the first students they taught, those they coached or young teachers who were recruited, mentored and empowered to develop into awesome educational leaders.

On Monday, August 17, 2020, I had an opportunity to listen to father and son, Dr. Tyrone Howard and Dr. Jaleel Howard, Professors in Education from UCLA. They spoke from experience at a roundtable discussion sponsored by Education Week. The title of the session was: The Persistence of Educational Inequity. They shared that the role of educators is to identify the best in individual students and provide them with the resources essential to take them where they need to be academically and emotionally. Give them **unconditional love**.

Dr. Tyrone Howard reminded the audience that today will not be repeated, there is not a second chance. Seize every opportunity to make today a meaningful day of growth for those in your charge as well as for yourself. He said school leaders and teachers set the tone in the school. Educators set policies, model practices and communicate the expectations of the school culture. All instructors must identify pathways of educational opportunity for all students on an individual basis.

Yesterday Cynthia Williams told us about a student she helped reach his goals. She shared his GPA and test scores with us which at first pass may have led many to dismiss the student and not look below the surface. She took the time to identify the needs of this student. Ms. Williams was able to provide academic opportunities, mentoring and coaching as a bridge so he was prepared to reach his

goals. Ms. Williams asked us to reflect on her story and identify a young person in our career we had bridged the system to empower them to build their future goals. Was there someone in your past who took a chance on you?

Dr. Sharroky Hollie reminds us to **validate, affirm, build and bridge** for all students. **Diversity** comes in many forms. As we understand and embrace the dynamics of **culturally responsive schools**, what steps can we take? What practices can we put in place to make sure we engage all students, give each student a feeling of belonging and allow them a voice to tell us how they feel and what they need?

Our schools have the power to create better conditions for all students. Educators are called to do **life changing work each day for all students**. Dr. Hollie reminds us to give **outrageous love** to each student every day, to meet them where they are, and to assure they have what they need for a brighter tomorrow.

*Paula Steele*  
*Director, Leadership Development*