



The Millennial Generation: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Issue 2

June 1, 2014

"Everyone wants to feel that he counts for something and is important to someone. Invariably, people will give their love, respect, and attention to the person who fills that need."

John C. Maxwell, Leadership 101

Empowerment

Real leadership is being the person others will gladly and confidently follow

Annual Conference

The CEPA Consortium is hosting its annual leadership conference October 9-11, 2014. The theme is *The Millennial Generation: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders*. The conference site is the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

What does leadership look like? Leading from within

"The greatest tragedy in life is someone with sight, but no vision." Helen Keller



Often times we think of leadership as administration or as a faculty leader in a classroom, but there is a special invitation to take the opportunity to lead students in a student organization. Working with students is rewarding. Shaping students' transformation into their own leadership roles such as president, vice-president and treasurer is absolutely worthy of the time it takes to invest and is beyond gratifying.

Working with students in this capacity helps contribute to their ability to become visionaries. Start each year with a vision building session in which the team works through annual goals, reaffirms the organization's mission and makes sure there is fluidity in carrying on the efforts. Carving out this crucial time makes the rest of the year flow with purpose. This time becomes a way for the students to bond, to air the issues that may be prohibiting the organization from moving forward and provides a safe place to exist. It helps immensely when the faculty advisor can guide the students into a common purpose and remind them of the vision.



Top left and clockwise is Trista Detamore, Dr. Dorel, Sarah Sanchez and Erica Reyna (Council of Exceptional Children Chapter 1208)

In *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl writes, "Ultimately, man should not ask what the meaning of life is, but rather he must recognize that it is *he* who is asked" (p. 143).

As faculty leaders, it is up to us to answer the call for our students and help them shape their own vision.

Dr. Theresa Garfield Dorel
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Leadership in the Americas: Vision, risk and change

Theresa Garfield Dorel takes a very interesting approach to developing leadership in her article, *Leading from Within*, which highlights the need for promoting visionary leadership. She focuses specifically on involving students by taking ownership early in their educational endeavors. A three-day CEPA conference held in Central America in 2000 directly involved the participants in a manner very similar to that described in Dr. Dorel's article. The theme was educational leadership and civic education.



Academic activities in educational leadership included the design of innovative educational paradigms in a collaborative arrangement for strategic planning. Civic education paradigms included:

democratic theory and practice, the philosophy and goals of education, the importance to a democracy of citizen behavior and social responsibility, and the relationships of public interest groups, educational institutions, and voluntary associations to one another and to society.

Students from the California State University system, along with Latin American professors, political officials, law enforcement and military officers, civic leaders and university students from the Catholic universities in El Salvador worked together to resolve issues such as violence and developing safe schools for higher student achievement. As one U.S. student stated, "Those who participated in the conference have helped the rebuilding process by sharing ideals and giving a vision of peace to Central America. It's not just us giving to them, we're learning also."

The educational paradigms designed during the conference pulled together the ideas and thoughts of participants — educators, students, parents, governmental agencies, and public and private institutions — to outline a vision and find solutions to critical social issues and challenges, such as drug abuse, violence, poverty, social stability, and human rights. It gave direction and the ability to project into the future to improve education, strengthen democratic institutions and empower civil society.

Student ensemble "Mariachi OLLUTlan"



OLLU will kick off CEPA 2014 with its student ensemble "Mariachi OLLUTlan," which will perform mariachi classics at the 5:00 p.m. reception, Friday, October 10th. These outstanding young musicians reflect the rich cultural heritage of San Antonio and the Southwest.

Championing success

Join us for an empowering weekend. The conference recognizes dreamers and visionaries, their pursuit of goals, and a desire to grow and excel. This event provides a premier opportunity for networking and high-powered professional development.

Fred Rodríguez can be reached at
cepa2000@earthlink.net
www.cepa2000.org

Dr. Michael Laney, OLLU; Dr. Eric Lopez, TAMU-SA
& Dr. Glenda Ballard, TAMUT – Conference Co-Directors

Dr. Theresa Garfield Dorel, Contributor:
Dr. Dorel is an assistant professor in special education and coordinator at Texas A&M University San Antonio. She earned her doctorate from the University of Texas at San Antonio and completed post-doctorate work in special education at Northcentral University