

Using the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders

to Support Your Research Projects

(A Rich Resource for Faculty Part 6)

Dr. Thompson's Mentoring Tip for the Week

April 1, 2013

Dear Colleague:

Because of ongoing advancements in technology, new information is constantly being created and disseminated. The bad news is that the rapid-pace at which new information is created, often makes it difficult for those of us who want to “stay current” in our fields of interest, to keep up with new developments. To illustrate my point, I designed the following quiz, that I hope you will take.

The Generation Y Quiz

1. Do you know the differences between Baby Boom teachers, Generation X teachers, and Generation Y teachers? a. yes b. no

2. Do you know where to locate research reports about how to retain Generation Y teachers? a. yes b. no

3. Which of the following are synonyms for Generation Y?
 - a. Millennials
 - b. the Net Gen
 - c. the iGeneration
 - d. the Echo Boom Generation

 - e. all of the above

4. Which of the following statements is true of Generation Y?
- They “tend to be highly educated” and “educationally minded.”
 - “They typically attribute their success to their educational opportunities.”
 - “Gen Y workers are extremely comfortable with technology and are dissatisfied with disconnected or technologically inferior workplaces.”
 - all of the above

How well did you do on the quiz? Did you know all of the answers, some of the answers, or none of the answers? If you didn’t know any, then, you’re in the same “boat” that I’m in. Let me correct that statement: If you didn’t know any, then you’re in the same “boat” that I *was* in before I read a report about Generation Y. That report was one of many in the rich resource for faculty and graduate students that’s my mentoring essay topic this week: the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders at American Institutes for Research.

What is the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders (GTL)?

According to its website (<http://www.tqsource.org/>), The Center on Great Teachers & Leaders:

... is a national content center dedicated to supporting states in their efforts to grow, respect, and support great teachers and leaders for all students. The GTL Center is part of the U.S. Department of Education's Comprehensive Centers program, which includes 7 national content centers and 15 regional centers supporting all 50 states. In October 2012, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

and its partners--the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Public Impact--entered into a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Education to establish and lead the GTL Center.

The Mission of the GTL Center, as stated on its website, is “to foster the capacity of vibrant networks of practitioners, researchers, innovators, and experts to build and sustain a seamless system of support for great teachers and leaders for every school in every state in the nation.”

What are the GTL Center’s Areas of Expertise?

The GTL Center provides information about seven main issues pertaining to teachers and school leaders:

- Preparation
- Recruitment, Hiring, & Placement
- Mentoring & Induction
- Professional Development
- Compensation
- Evaluation
- Leadership

Visiting the GTL Center website, and either typing in one of the above topics or clicking on the “Technical Assistance Toolbox” link will permit you to access reports about the seven areas of expertise.

What are some examples of GTL Center reports and guides that might interest me?

The GTL Center website contains numerous research-based reports and guides that might be useful to you, including:

- “Ensuring the Equitable Distribution of Teachers: Strategies for School, District, and State Leaders”
- “Teacher Leadership as a Key to Education Innovation: Action Steps and Promising Strategies for State, District, and University Officials”
- “Paving the Path to the Urban School Principalship”
- “Teacher Recruitment: Strategies for Widening the Teaching Pool in a Shrinking Economy”
- “Recruiting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Teachers”
- “Recruiting Special Education Teachers”
- “Recruiting Teachers for Urban and Rural Schools”
- “Recruiting Teachers for Schools Serving English Language Learners”
- “Improving the Preparation of School and District Leaders”
- “Enhancing Leadership Quality”
- “Methods of Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness”

- “Preparing Teachers Effectively for At-Risk Schools”

Which report contains the answers to the quiz that I took at the beginning of this essay?

For answers to the quiz, and to learn more about Generation Y teachers, read the following report:

- “Leading Gen Y Teachers: Emerging Strategies for School Leaders”

Conclusion

Although I didn’t describe all of the features of the GTL Center website or list all of the available reports and guides, I hope that you’ll visit the website to determine how you can use it to support your research agenda. With this in mind, hang in there, have a great week, **keep writing**, and be on the lookout for next week’s mentoring advice.

Blessings and peace,

GT