





**Teacherpreneurship:  
Discovering Ways to Lead  
without Leaving the Classroom**

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**Slides and Tools**

 **Session 1503/1603:**  
Teacherpreneurship

 **www.thelearningloop.com**  
PRESENTATIONS  
Teacherpreneurship

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**Time to Celebrate**



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- Love yourself
- Push yourself; own your areas of growth
- Commit to sharing
- Make time for reflection
- Plan to act



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### Why Teacherpreneurship?



"I did not recall even once during my teaching career having a conversation with any of my colleagues about *teacher leader* roles (real ones – not department chair or textbook committee or test coordinator roles).

The conversations about leadership always stopped once I shared my unwavering refusal to become an administrator. I realized that this one option would never be enough."

*Teacherpreneurs, Berry, Byrd & Wieder*

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### Defining Teacherpreneurship



If you Google the term **teacherpreneur**, you'll get about 17,500 results. The word is a combination of **teacher** and **entrepreneur**.

The word teacherpreneur represents the bold concept that teachers can **continue to teach** while having **time, space, and incentives** to incubate big pedagogical and policy ideas and execute them in the best interests of both their students and their teaching colleagues.

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## Qualities of Teacher Leaders

- Principled
- Honest and ethical
- Organized
- Perceptive
- Empathetic and supportive
- Altruistic
- Accessible
- Resourceful
- Fair
- Accepting
- Vulnerable
- Forward-thinking
- Global
- Decisive and incisive
- Intelligent



*How to Thrive as a Teacher Leader,  
John G. Gabriel*

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## Who Are Teacherpreneurs?

- Strong teachers who are also visionaries
- Active engagers of students and families
- Architects and navigators of learning
- Policy mavens
- Community connectors
- Action researchers
- Data strategists who are also gap identifiers/fillers



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## Purpose of Teacherpreneurs



- NOI to identify "super teachers" who make more money
- Empower expert teachers to help inform colleagues, policy makers, and the public about what is best for students

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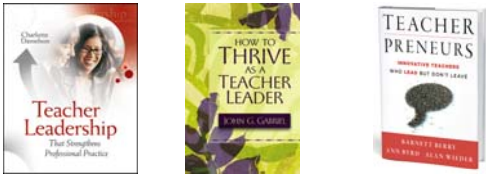
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### Who Is Thinking/Writing/Talking about This?



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### Waves of Teacher Leadership



\*Note: Waves are not linear with the exception of Wave 0

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### Wave 0

Mastery of accomplished teaching practice



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**Wave 1**

**Formal Roles**

- Grade Level Chair
- Department Head
- Union Rep



**Managerial** roles designed to further the efficiency of school operations

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**Wave 2**

**Instructional Roles**

- Mentor
- Coach
- Facilitator



**Resource** roles designed to improve classroom practice

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**Wave 3**

**Community Roles**

- PLC Leader
- Community Liaison



**Collaborative** roles designed to support continuous learning and growth

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**Wave 4**

**External/Public Roles**

- District/State/National Leaders

**Leadership** roles designed to give teachers time and space to grow a robust professional learning network to inform public policy and communicate instructional best practices.

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**Teacher Leader Model Standards**

[www.teacherleaderstandards.org](http://www.teacherleaderstandards.org)

- Domain 1: Foster a Collaborative Culture
- Domain 2: Access and Use Research
- Domain 3: Promote Professional Learning
- Domain 4: Facilitate Improvements in Instruction
- Domain 5: Promote Use of Assessments/Data
- Domain 6: Improve Outreach and Collaboration
- Domain 7: Advocate for Student Learning

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**Journey of Your Teacher Leadership**

In which wave(s) has most of your prior roles been a part?

Which wave(s) might you want to explore?

What additional experiences would you like to cultivate?

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# What Is Your Ideal Teacherpreneurial Role?

“Volun-told” vs. “Lead-unteering”



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# What Is Your Ideal Teacherpreneurial Role?

Develop a one-sentence job description.



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# Develop Your Teacherpreneurial Resume

Suggestions for categories:

- Professional objective (draw on your one-sentence teacherpreneur job description)
- Evidence of “intelligent humility,” the ability to own and assert what you know humbly and while acknowledging what you do not yet know
- Evidence of making great teaching visible, by both practicing and articulating what makes classroom practice effective and masterful
- Evidence of well-traveledness, the capacity to connect your own local experiences to a broader landscape of challenges and solutions
- Experience with reciprocal mentoring, supporting the professional learning of other teachers as a community of peers
- Evidence of the “right stuff” for teaching and leadership, with a mind-set for continuous growth, openness to new ideas, and strategic innovation
- Evidence of cultivating other teacher leaders by sharing what you know and practicing

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## Reflect on Your Teacherpreneurial Resume

What experiences do you need to make yourself stronger in

- 1 year
- 3 years
- 5 years
- 10 years?



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## Take Action



What is **one** action step you will take this year?

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## Examine Your "Why"



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### Examine Your "Why"

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### Examine Your "Why"

- Kids
- Craft
- Content
- Core Values

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### Examine Your "Why"

- **KIDS:** What role(s) do you believe you play in the lives of students?
- **CRAFT and CONTENT:** Under what conditions do you believe students learn best?
- **CORE VALUES:** How does your role as a teacher extend into your school's community beyond your individual classroom?
- **CORE VALUES:** What is your vision for the teaching profession as a whole?

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## Linking “Why” to “How”

How do I make these values visible?

- Classroom design
- Student assessments
- Communication and collaboration strategies
- Lesson structures
- Outreach efforts to parents and the community
- Work and action beyond your classroom or school



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## Integrate Outside Interests

What do you like to do *outside* the classroom?

What skills, hobbies, or interests do you have that could intersect with your role as a teacher leader?



How do these match up with needs you see in your school community?

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## Models of Leadership



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## Models of Leadership

- Who inspires you as a leader? (This person may not necessarily be a teacher, and you don't necessarily have to know him or her personally. Think about someone whom you respect as a leader and influencer.)
- Why does this person inspire you?
- What values do you share?
- Which of this person's specific accomplishments and achievements can you seek to emulate in your own career?



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## Seek Anti-Barrier Solutions

Which barrier(s) might you be most likely to encounter in your own exploration of a teacherpreneurial role?



Share an anti-barrier and sort through the potential solutions you generated.

What might work, and how do you know?

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## Futurespection

- What will your leadership look like in 2026?
- What individuals and organizations will help you get there?
- What challenges will you overcome along the way?
- What will be your proudest and most difficult moments?
- What personal and professional achievements will you celebrate? What aspects of the education landscape will you directly influence?



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Additional Information & Consulting


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