



**Arkansas
Leadership Academy**

Academy Action

February 2009

Volume 8, Issue 2

Upcoming Institutes:

Master Principal Institute

P1S3—Feb. 10-12, 2009

P3S3—Apr. 21-23, 2009

P2S3—May 6-8, 2009

P1S4—Jun. 16-19, 2009

P1S1—Jul. 7-10, 2009

Superintendent Institute

Session 3 Webinar—

Mar. 12, 2009

Session 4—May 4-5, 2009

Teacher Institute

Forum 16, Session 3—

Feb. 15-17, 2009

Forum 15, Session 4—

Jun. 24-26, 2009

DKL Team Institute

Session 1—Feb. 3-6, 2009

Session 2—Jul. 1-2, 2009

Special points of interest:

- Director of the Academy invited to serve on development committee for National Board for Professional Standards for educational leaders.
- Academy selected to present at NSDC conference summer 2009 in Boston.
- Academy currently holding interviews for new Master Principal Leader.
- If you are interested in attending any of the Academy's institutes, check out the Academy's website or call the Academy office.

Academy Partners Gather in Little Rock for Annual Meeting

In January, the Academy Partners met at the University Systems Office in Little Rock for their semi-annual meeting. After sharing professional and personal goals with each other and re-establishing group norms and beliefs, the Partners discussed how to maximize their partnership support to accomplish the Academy's vision of a statewide professional learning community. Communication; research, data, and leadership development; and professional development resource and support emerged as the 3 dominant themes. Partners offered ideas on contributing toward their involvement with the Academy and agreed to meet for a Partner work day this spring to build on these themes.

Partners were then updated on the current status of Academy programs as well as a new institute the

Academy is planning to implement later in the year. Partners also discussed possible changes to current Academy programs as well as the possibility of new legislation concerning the Academy.

Finally, the Partners learned about the Academy's web Forum and the benefits of communicating and learning via the Forum.

The Academy currently has a total of 49 Partners, representing 15 universities; 9 professional associations; 15 educational cooperatives; the Arkansas Departments of Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Education; the Arkansas Educational Television Network; Tyson Foods, Inc.; Wal*Mart Stores, Inc.; 2 superintendent representatives; the Office of the Governor; and the State Board of Education.

Leading the Academy: Meet the Partner Executive Committee

The Academy's Executive Committee is made up of 10 Partner representatives who are committed to leading the Academy and serving as the voice of the Academy Partners when needed. The Executive Committee meets twice a year, or as needed, to discuss plans for the Academy, interview new Academy employees, and prepare for the semi-annual Partner meetings.



Angela Sewall,
Chair, University of
Arkansas-Little Rock



Rich Nagel,
Vice Chair, Arkansas
Education Association



Tom Kimbrell,
Ark. Assoc. of Educa-
tional Administrators



Rodger Harlan,
Wilbur D. Mills Educa-
tion Service Co-op



Phillip Young,
Arch Ford Education
Service Co-op



Archie Schaffer,
Tyson Foods, Inc.



Ken James,
Arkansas Department
of Education



Dan Farley,
Arkansas School
Boards Association



Reed Greenwood,
University of Arkansas
-Fayetteville



Brenda Gullett,
Arkansas State Board
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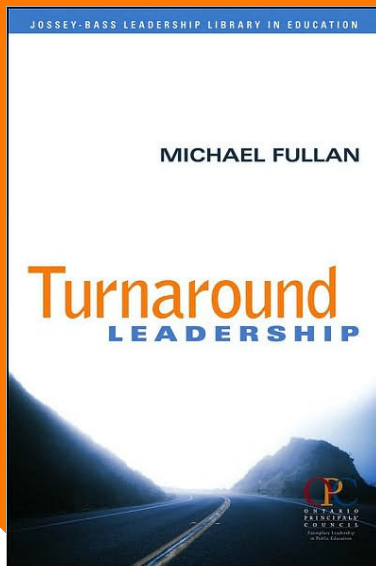
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Turnaround Leadership: A New Resource for School Leadership



A new resource on school leadership was shared with Academy Partners at the Academy's recent Partner Meeting. *Turnaround Leadership* is a book by Michael Fullan, an internationally recognized leader on educational reform and a professor of policy studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.

According to publisher Jossey-Bass's website, in *Turnaround Leadership*, Fullan expands the definition of organizational turnaround and shows how leaders can turn even the worst situation into an opportunity to shake-up and rejuvenate their schools and entire systems. He examines the dynamics of what makes societies and education systems healthy or sick, identifies the positive things turnaround schools do to get off the critical list, and explores what it takes to motivate large numbers of people to go beyond short-term solutions in order to achieve fundamental, sustainable reform. Most notably, Fullan's book focuses on the critical role of leadership and the leaders whose very actions change the systems in which they work.

Educational author and consultant Richard Dufour commented, "In *Turnaround Leadership*, Michael Fullan goes beyond the critique of contemporary practice to offer specific, comprehensive strategies to create schools that become continuously more effective by building the capacity and the confidence of the educators within them. This is a must read for anyone serious about meaningful school improvement."

Fullan, M. (2006). *Turnaround leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.