

Teacher Leader

Oakland University.



Keeping up with Podcasts

Recent additions to this ongoing series include an interview with Dr. William Skilling of Oxford Schools. Dr. Skilling talks with Bob and Linda about turning

a downturn into an upturn.—Volume 5 Episode 3.

Bob and Linda also talk to Dr. Michael MacDonald of Teacher Development and Educational Studies. Dr. MacDonald talks about suicidology, how we can all help, and his role with OU's new School of Medicine—Volume 5 Episode 4.

Another episode finds Linda and Bob discussing public school education in Michigan with State Superintendent Mike Flanagan – a must hear for any Michigan teacher—Volume 5 Episode 5.

A fourth interview of interest is one which features Mike VanBeek of the Mackinac Center. Mike is the Education Policy Adviser for the center and discusses market driven school reform in Volume 5 Episode 6.

Finally, our most recent interviewee is Principal Adam Scher of Way Elementary in Bloomfield Hills. Bob and Linda talk to him about his school which is nationally recognized for its full implementation of Visible Thinking in Volume 5 Episode 7.

Teaching 2030—Spreading the Word

We have taken another step with Teaching 2030. November 14 kicked off a book study at the School of Education and Human Services at Oakland University. The inspiration for the study came out of our Galileo board meeting and we have taken action. 25 members of the faculty and staff committed to the book study.

The study was facilitated by Dr. Nancy Brown, Chair of Teacher Development and Educational Studies and Dr. Cynthia Carver of Educational Leadership.

Galileo Institute System Change Project in the Grosse Pointe Schools

The Grosse Pointe Public School System has a long standing history of collecting data related to student achievement, including the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment which has been administered for nearly 40 years. The focus of this project was to further develop a system-wide commitment and capacity to use data to guide instruction, professional development as well as school and district improvement projects.

Since the district has also promoted teacher leadership through its participation in the Galileo Academy for Teacher Leadership and creation of formal teacher leadership roles, the project was structured to effectively involve and empower teacher leaders to address these challenges.

For more information, please contact: Ms. Monique Beels, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology at 313.432.3042

Writing grants is like writing a short answer test—Awni Dalal

If you have taken a short answer or essay test, you can write a grant proposal. Most proposals have specific questions, whether it is an online application or a form to mail. Approach the application like the short answer exams we had in high school: answer only the question asked and be succinct, and you will have a great proposal.

In 2010, the Foundation Center reported that foundations in the United States gave \$45.7 billion. The majority of gifts in 2009 were given in the field of Education. (source: [The Foundation Center, *Foundation Giving Trends*, 2011.](#)) Despite the current economy woes, grants are still being awarded.

In future Galileo newsletters, I will present a step-by-step process to use when looking for funding, including search engines like GrantWrangler.com.



My Style of Teacher Leadership

by Moses Lukwago Ed.S

As a teacher leader, I like to take the initiative to share information with peers and to provide assistance to school administrators. I believe that schools become great when teachers share their knowledge and work in partnership with each other to facilitate the learning of all students. This academic year, I started teaching a third hour at the Oakland Opportunity Academy. This academy was opened last year to cater for the growing number of children in Oakland County who can't be educated in the normal public schools. The students have a wide range of issues that make teaching them a challenge.

I took the initiative to make a presentation on Brain Based Learning strategies because I had observed how they had helped my students to get engaged, and stay focused in the class I shared my experience of using the BBL strategies in the classroom. Specifically, I described the use of music and movement to teach difficult concepts like the binary system and ASCII code for computer communications. The sharing of personal experiences forms part of my milieu as a teacher leader. I take the risk to try out things in my classroom, before I share them with other teachers. I am a strong believer in the school as a Learning community. I enthusiastically collaborate with others to improve student learning. I participate in district committee like The New Teacher Academy.

This committee designs programs that help new teachers in the district. We provide professional development seminars and evaluate our mentoring programs. This participation provides me with opportunities to help others. This support comes in many forms. I make presentations, like the one on mentoring for the new teachers at the OOA. I mentor new teachers. I also use action research to generate data that can be used to make decisions on classroom strategies and the purchase of instructional materials. I also reach out to the wide community. I have designed programs such as the computer donation project which enabled my students to use the skills they acquire in the Personal computer technician course, to refurbish used computers from businesses and make them usable for elementary school children in Oakland County, who don't have a computer at home.

Teacher leadership has given me opportunities to serve my peers, school administrators, and the community to advance the learning of all our students. I am grateful to the many teachers that have poured into me over the 30 years that I have been in the classrooms of Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Canada and the United States

About the author: Moses Lukwago Ed.S is a recent graduate of Oakland University and the Galileo Leadership Consortium. He holds the degree of Education Specialist in leadership. Moses works with Oakland Schools as an instructor in the Business Management Marketing and Technology cluster. Email: Moses.Lukwago@oakland.k12.mi.us

QUESTIONS? *Contact:*

Dr. C. Robert Maxfield, Institute Director

maxfiel2@oakland.edu

Kay Cornell, Program Coordinator

cornell@oakland.edu

Mary Belz, Graduate Assistant

mrbelz@oakland.edu

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