

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to share your experiences or recollections from the beginning of your journey as a new faculty member. Whether you are brand new to higher education or a seasoned veteran with tenure, I hope that you will share your experiences, both good and bad and lessons that would allow others to learn from your experiences. The collection will be published in a new volume from Information Age Publishing titled: **The Dignity of the Calling: Educators Share the Beginnings of Their Journeys**, edited by Andrew T. Kemp, with an expected publication date of October 2014. As editor, I will serve as primary contact for any inquiries. You may write me with any questions at: dignityofthecalling@gmail.com

Background of the Book

In 2007, I accepted my first position in higher education as an assistant professor at Northern Illinois University. After finishing my degree at the University of Central Florida in Curriculum and Instruction, I embarked on what became a much more difficult, frustrating, and enlightening trip than I ever envisioned. While I always felt prepared with the tools, skills, knowledge of research, critical thinking, and curriculum and instruction, I was not fully aware of the demands of the professoriate. I was educated to be a researcher but not a professional in an avocation. It made the first few years more agonizing than exhilarating.

Although I was a teacher prior to the entering the professoriate, I was not ready for the gargantuan professional and personal transition to higher education. I was not prepared for minutiae of forms, deadlines of inter-office programs, personalities, and most of all for the human and sometimes illogical relationships among colleagues. I was caught off-guard by the nuanced thinking of students; and most of all, I was, at times, overwhelmed by the time constraints of research, teaching and service on me and my family. However, I survived, and I believe I thrived in my small slice of the academic world.

A record of this first year, where I learned to be an academic, can be found in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (http://chronicle.com/search/?search_siteId=5&contextId=&action=rem&searchQueryString=Kemp+Madrid+Flynn). Written with two colleagues, we reflected on our newness to the profession, personal barriers, and a shooting on campus. What we learned from the first year, battered egos, and starting year two, was shared through our collective experiences. This series of columns permitted us to chronicle our experiences, not only for the therapeutic purposes of self-reflection, but also as an open book in sharing a variety of perspectives that others were able to connect with, discuss, and critique. This experience in writing is the genesis for this book.

Structure of the book

My experience, although unique to me, was that of many neophyte faculty. It is the goal of this edited volume to provide perspective by looking at the lives of a variety of faculty,

from diverse fields, with unique voices, which will enable readers to gain a sense of perspective that will, perhaps, help along their own unique journeys through academia and the professoriate. For those interested in contributing to the volume, I ask that you consider the following guiding questions.

- What was it you wanted to know?
- How do you become successful?
- What advice would you give yourself if you were to start today?
- What lessons were learned?

The organization of the volume will revolve around two distinct, but interrelated experiences from faculty. First, are contributions from a group of faculty members who have been invited and agreed to write about the beginning of their journey in academia. Some of the contributors include Bill Pinar, Marcy Kysilka, Bill Schubert, David Flinders, Rick Van Acker, David Callejo Perez, Yong Zhao, David Kolb, Brian Schultz, and Peter McLaren. This growing group will provide a foundational discussion that explores academia and faculty experiences over the past 30 years.

Although these contributions are a powerful set of examples of success in the professoriate, they still don't reflect the current realities that many new faculty face, have faced, or will be facing. The call for this volume seeks chapters from those of you that are in this group—voices who are important and whose experiences need to be shared. I invite you to write about your beginnings within higher education.

Therefore, these contributions for chapters and vignettes are important in providing diverse voices within the context of faculty's journeys in higher education. These contributions could address recollections, reflections, or advice for professionals at the beginnings of their careers.

This call asks you to consider your experiences within the context of the guiding questions and within the following contexts:

- Professional Journeys,
- Personal Journeys,
- Research Journeys,
- Evolving Journeys, and
- Journeys for a Calling.

This edited book is a narrative examination of experiences of faculty in the early years of the professoriate. It looks at the lessons learned, how careers were built, and/or a personal journey through the eyes of new, established and senior scholars as they re-tell their unique journeys and the impact on their professional and personal lives. Finally, the goal of the book is to provide narratives for students or faculty who are looking for a sense of community and shared experiences during their own journey as a new professional in higher education.

Proposal Submission

All proposals should include the following:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Institution
4. Rank/Position
5. Short Bio (100 words or less)
6. Applicable Section (Professional Journey, Personal Journey, etc.)
 - a. If you have an idea not listed, feel free to propose your journey
7. One page abstract/summary of your proposed contribution addressing one or more of the guiding questions.

Timeline

1. Submit Proposal: January 31, 2014
2. Author Acceptance Notification: February 15, 2014
3. Draft of Manuscript (mini-chapter/vignette) Due: May 15, 2014
4. Feedback and Changes Requested: June 30, 2014
5. Final Version Due: July 30, 2014
6. Draft of book to publisher September 1, 2014

Things to Consider

- What about your experience in unique or might be helpful to others?
- What have you learned along the way?
- How might your experience transcend your academic world and help inform or transform someone else's?
- Is your voice or experience unique?
- What advice might you have based on immediate experience or based on reflection?

Your proposal and ultimately contribution should be written in APA Style, 6th Edition. Please use references where necessary.

Please send all proposals to the address below.

Please use the following in the subject line:
Dignity of the Calling Proposal

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