



# CRCRTH 688 - Reflective Practice Late Career Change to Education Field

UMass-Boston  
May 1, 2018

# Welcome

- Welcome participants.
- Topic of the presentation:
  - Late life career change.
  - Issues related to the education field.
  - Challenges and obstacles.

# Turn the Radio On

- I have ADHD and working with it has been compared to tuning in to a radio station
- For those who don't have ADHD, the metaphor still works — what are you trying to listen to without static and interference?
- Reflective journaling will help you to screen out the stuff you don't want to hear while fine-tuning what's really going on with your signal.



# Principles and Practices

## Principles

- TRANSPARENCY — Be clear on what you are doing & your motivations
- CAUSE-AND-EFFECT — Topics and concepts that appear unrelated may very well be related
- RESPECT — Your time is valuable as is the time of people in your network

## Practices

- CONSISTENCY — Follow through with your actions
- HONESTY — Be honest with yourself & others
- CONNECTIVITY — You want to be "putting things together" and making connections among various elements

# Goals

- Late career change in general — "There are no second acts in American lives." F Scott Fitzgerald, *The Last Tycoon*
  - With all due respect, Mr. Fitzgerald was wrong
- Educational careers in general.
- My concerns given my circumstance.
- Issues to focus on given my background.

# Activity

- Please take a handout
- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- What did you learn that changed that?
- Think about what would you tell yourself now about that plan/goal.

# How I came to my Decision

- My background & educational history.
- I did not realize the applicability of my background until later in life.
- The connection between experience and knowledge.

# Potential Obstacles

- Teacher turnover in general - 15-20% annually.
- Ageism in the education field
- Lack of experience. What could help me?
  - A resume that speaks to the position you want.
  - Highlight any leading/training experience.
  - How school has changed since “antiquity” of the 1960s to 2000s.
  - Demonstrate knowledge of students’ lifestyle and concerns.
  - Emphasize breadth of career rather than depth of specific knowledge.



# School Today



**“My teacher isn’t qualified to teach spelling!  
She spells U ‘y-o-u’. She spells BRB ‘r-e-t-u-r-n’.  
She spells BFN ‘g-o-o-d-b-y-e’...”**



*“Please remind your mom and dad that it’s a parent-teacher conference, not a parent-teacher-attorney conference.”*

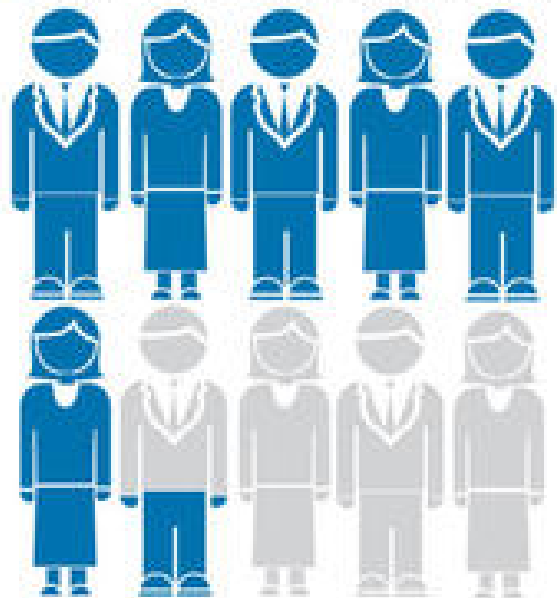
# School Circumstances

- Today's students face challenges that "we" did not have.
- Play it by ear, go with the flow, keep an open mind about possibilities.
- Provide policy information about:
  - The 24-hour school day – There is no more "the dog ate my homework," excuse; the exception to this may be a technical misunderstand, but even that has fallen along the roadside.
  - Privacy.
  - Confidentiality - If that even exists.
  - After-school sports and "educational enhancement" activities.
  - Volunteering.

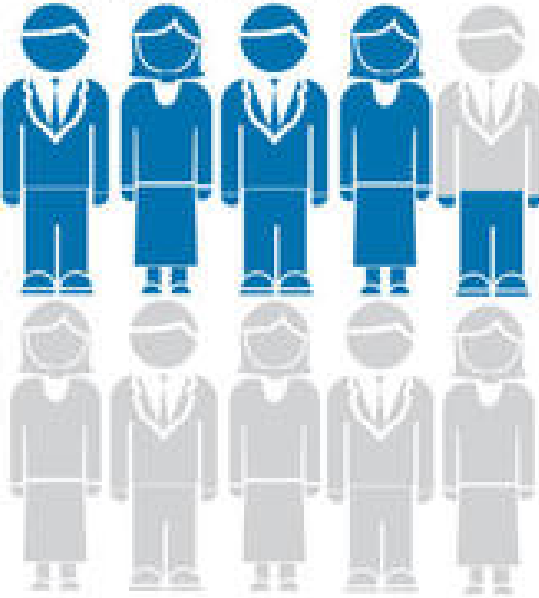
# National low-income student education

FOR EVERY 100 STUDENTS

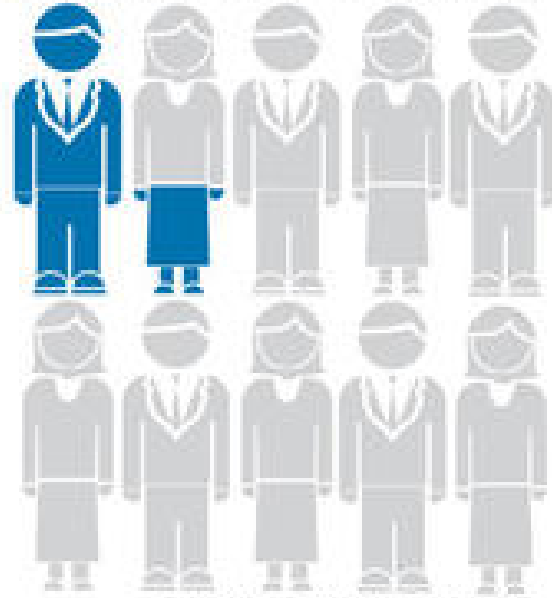
**65** will receive high school diplomas:



**45** will enroll in college



**11** will complete postsecondary degree



SOURCE: NATIONAL EDUCATION LONGITUDINAL STUDY

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

# Networking!

- Teaching jobs are often far more dependent on networking than other types of job searches
- Talk with current teachers.
- Join a subject group at community center (think of a better description) or professional groups.

# Networking in Action



# Questions?

- Questions from participants.
- Answer some questions for yourself.
  - Potential for growth in your current position or workplace?
  - What is limiting about your work?

# Handouts

- Keep your handouts and think about these issues over the next few days.
- Consider these questions & issues:
  - How is your career going?
  - Consider the possibility of using written reflection to consider your issues as well as come up with a new career goal better suited to who you are.
  - Radio station metaphor – what you are doing to get in tune with yourself?