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T&L 2900—Better Conversations

Course at a Glance

Instructor/Presenter: Nicole Newfield

Length: 45 hours

Dates: Enroll anytime—Complete in 4 months

Number of Graduate Professional Development Credits: 3

Introduction

Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other to Be More Credible, Caring, and Connected is a practical book with clear steps to the better conversations necessary for students' academic and social-emotional growth, as well as for our own well-being as educators. "Communication is at the heart of everything educators do," as Jim writes. And, "Our schools are only as good as the conversations within them."

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you should be able to accomplish the following objectives:

- Explore the power of explicit and tacit knowledge in learning the beliefs and habits needed to be authentic communicators.
- Analyze the 6 beliefs that are foundational to the Better Conversation approach to interaction, consider current personal beliefs about interactions with others, and determine what beliefs will be personally chosen to act on in future conversations.
- Identify ways to demonstrate and listen with empathy, and then reflect on our implementation of these habits.
- Practice the habit of fostering dialogue, a learning conversation, balancing advocacy and inquiry to achieve mutual understanding and to explore multiple possibilities.
- Establish the habit of asking better, effective questions in conversations.
- Implement the habits of recognizing opportunities to make emotional connections with others and to share positive information about others.
- Employ strategies to commit to the habit of finding common ground with others.
- Apply the habits of controlling toxic emotions and redirecting toxic conversations in our interactions with others.
- Build trust by demonstrating character, reliability, competence, warmth, and stewardship.

Text and/or Other Materials

Knight, J. (2016). Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other to Be More Credible, Caring, and Connected. California: Corwin.

Module Topics and Assignments

Beliefs, Habits, Knowledge
Partnership and Meaning
Empathy, Listening, Dialogue, Purpose
Connections, Feedback, Strategies
Building Trust

Grading and Evaluation Activities:

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|--|---|
| Modules 1-5: Individual Reflection Activities: Questions will be assigned for each module. Questions and responses will be posted on Schoology. | 24 pints per assignment; 120 points for the course |
| Modules 1-5: Discussion Board Posts: Responses will be posted via Schoology Discussions. | 24 pints per assignment; 120 points for the course |
| Modules 1-5: Additional Interactive Assignments: Instructions will be posted via Schoology for each module. | 8 points per assignment; 40 points for the course |
| Due by the end of the course: Implementation Plan | 120 points |

| Graduate Grading Scale 3 credits | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| A/ S | 90-100% | 400-364 points |
| B/ S | 80-89% | 363-328 points |
| C/ S | 70-79% | 327-292 points |
| F/ U | below 70% | Below 292 |

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students enrolled in this course are expected to be aware of the seriousness of scholastic dishonesty. Unacceptable behavior such as submitting someone else's work as your own, cheating on exams, or

plagiarizing can result in failure of the course or other sanctions. For a more detailed description of these policies, please refer to the UND Code of Student Life; Appendix IIIa-3, at: <http://und.edu/student-affairs/code-of-student-life/>