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978-1-107-63789-4 - Educational Leadership: Together Creating Ethical Learning Environments: Second Edition

Patrick Duignan

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Educational Leadership

Second edition

Together creating ethical learning environments

The second edition of *Educational Leadership* is a groundbreaking work at the forefront of current research into the ethical challenges inherent to leadership. Patrick Duignan combines a new perspective on leadership as an influence relationship, with a collective ethic of responsibility. This combination is intended to promote a new paradigm of learning based on the creation of ethical, engaging and technologically smart learning environments suited to the learning styles of contemporary students.

Educational Leadership draws together cutting-edge research, theory and best practice on learning, teaching and leadership to assist leaders and teachers to better understand contemporary educational challenges and respond to them wisely, creatively and effectively. This book is indispensable for all system and educational professionals engaged in policy-making, leadership development, leading learning in schools, and those in academe responsible for programs aimed at the improvement of learning, teaching and leadership.

About the author

Patrick Duignan BA, H Dip ED (NUI), B.Ed, M.Ed. Admin, Ph.D. (ALTA) was Foundation Chair in Educational Leadership and Director of the Flagship for Creative and Authentic Leadership at ACU National, where he championed ethical and moral leadership, especially in not-for-profit organisations. He currently works as a consultant in the area of Educational Leadership and travels the world as an international speaker and consultant on leadership for not-for-profit organisations.

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To Nuala, our children, and grandchildren

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Foreword

Patrick Duignan has studied and practised leadership for over four decades. In the second edition of *Educational Leadership* he captures all this wisdom in one concise, powerful place. I know the field pretty well, and as I was reading I wondered from time to time whether Duignan would address this or that aspect of what is prominent in education leadership. Every time I thought of a dimension of leadership, it would be addressed seemingly in the next chapter. It is all there: moral purpose, macro challenges, micro challenges, tensions and dilemmas, individual and collective ethics, innovation and more.

Whether it is about *being* a leader or *becoming* a leader, Duignan gets to the bottom of what it means to foster and hone one's leadership. He not only addresses the key aspects of educational leadership, but he uncovers the deeper issues, and then helps the reader think it through with just the right amount of complexity. He doesn't spoonfeed the reader but he does sharply clarify each major aspect of leadership. He furnishes his own insights, but he also pushes the reader to grapple with the underlying issues. His reflective questions at the end of each chapter are a course in leadership itself.

I recently reviewed the broader literature in order to get insights into what it means to practise highly effective leadership, whatever sector one is in. When I compare my conclusions all of them are addressed by Duignan: how to become a resolute leader, motivate others, collaborate, learn confidently, know one's impact – and above all, how to learn from practice, your own and others (Fullan, 2011).

Read this book with the express purpose of how you can become a deeper, highly effective authentic leader. You will be drawn in to examine every aspect of your stance and practice. You will have the opportunity to review and build your leadership systematically, as Duignan says, around your personal, relational, professional, and organisational attributes and capabilities.

Duignan will not only help you to become more effective, he will push you to be a leader who develops others. He shows the ways in which leaders can develop leadership in others, how to assist teachers to become more capable, and how to transform the collective capacity of their schools and communities. These are wrenching times in societal and global development. Duignan challenges us to create 'a future of our own making'. He takes us a long way down that path. It is up to the reader to make it happen.

Michael Fullan

Professor Emeritus

OISE, University of Toronto

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