Christine Carey

SLM 501 Administrations and Leadership

Assignment 1 – Leadership and Professional Development

Tribute:

Christine is an outstanding example of perseverance, diligence, patience, and responsibility. She consistently demonstrates her dedication to education and professional excellence through her hard work and obvious care for her students and school community. Over the years she has worked hard to develop strong relationships with students, parents, and colleagues, building a high level of trust and mutual respect. Ever the cheerleader, she is very much appreciated by her coworkers for her constant words of encouragement and praise. Our community has appreciated her many contributions including serving as grade level chair, representing the staff on our Governing Counsel, providing several staff developments on technology integration and reading strategies, and participating in many after school activities.

Leadership Analysis:

Strengths:
In the *Locus of Control and Attributional Style Test* I scored a 59. I recognize that most of my successes are the result of my hard work, but also recognize that there are some things that are out of my control. When a staff development doesn't go well, I will be able to look at it objectively and figure out which things I could fix for next time and which things couldn't be helped. In the *Keirsey Temperment Report* I came out as a Guardian. My temperament is most suited to serving and preserving. I take pride in being dependable and trustworthy and am serious about my duties and responsibilities. According to the Meyers Briggs test I am an IFSJ-T. I am receptive to change and new ideas and take responsibilities personally. I am supportive, loyal, patient and hard working. According to the *Collaborative Leadership Qualities Inventory*, I am good at being honest, building consensus, and responding to issues flexibly. On the *LPI* assessment I scored highest in "Model the Way", "Enable Others to Act", and "Encourages the Heart." All of these qualities will help me be a role model to my coworkers and hopefully will inspire respect.

Weaknesses:
According to the *Locus of Control and Attributional Style Test*, although I know that my successes are mostly the result of my own hard work, I don't always take credit for my accomplishments. I know that in order for my coworkers to have confidence in me and trust my skills, I have to have some degree of self-assurance. There are times where I will want to share my accomplishments and things that I am proud of so that I can begin to build that

relationship of trust and respect among the staff that I will lead. After reviewing the results of my *Meyers Briggs* and *Keirsey Temperment Report* I noticed that sometimes I can be a bit too altruistic and sensitive. I do like people to be happy and occasionally I spend too much energy trying to please everyone. I need to work on developing a thicker skin and being ready to assert myself when I feel strongly about a new initiative.

Professional Development Plan:

OBJECTIVES—List the objectives of your plan.
• I would like to learn more about Learning Commons, what they entail, and how they can be implemented.
1. Professional Memberships—List the professional associations you have joined. Example: MASL, ALA, AASL, ACLS, YALSA, IBBY, IASL. Identify their representative listservs and online resources you will use.
AASL – This association is especially for school librarians and offers online learning and continuing education, publications and journals, research and statistics, conferences and meetings and much more. This was a large source of information for me in the development of this plan. ALSC – This is the world's largest organization dedicated to supporting library services for children. By being a member I have access to professional development opportunities, the latest library initiatives for children (like Junior Maker Space by LEGO), and many professional tools such as book lists, and digital media resources. MASL – This is Maryland's organization for school librarians. It offers annual conferences, professional development and networking opportunities, and coordination of the Black-Eyed Susan Awards.
2. Professional Articles and Books—Identify the journals you will read. Identify and annotate specific articles that will meet your professional plan. Identify and annotate new books.
Cohen, Sydnye. "Developing a Learning Commons." *Teacher Librarian*. June 2015. 48-50. Print. This article is written by a teacher librarian who transformed her own library into a learning commons. She offers useful advice and the benefit of learning from her mistakes. Fleming, Laura. *Worlds of Making: Best practices for establishing a makerspace for your school*. London: Sage Publications Ltd., 2015. Print. In order to have a successful Learning Commons, I will want to have a great "makerspace." A makerspace is a place for students to use a variety of resources in order to create, invent, and learn. This book describes the best ways to make this kind of "DIY" space happen in your library. Graves, Colleen. "Learning Commons on a Dime." *School Library Monthly*. Jan 2014. 37-39. Print.

The school I am in now has little to no money allotted in its budget for a school library. I will need to have some budget savvy ideas to convince our administration and governing council that we can afford it. This article offers some tips on how to implement a Learning Commons using what you already have.

Harland, Pamela Colburn. *The Learning Commons: Seven simples steps to transform your library*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2011. Print.
This book provides a roadmap for me to follow in order to adapt my school library to become a Learning Commons. It includes surveys, sample newsletters, library reports, research paper formatting guides, photos, and practical suggestions for getting started.

Loertsher, David V. and Carol Koechlin. "Climbing to Excellence: Defining Characteristics of successful learning commons." *Knowledge Quest*. Mar/Apr 2014. 14-15. Print.
This is an in depth look at what successful Learning Commons looks like. The authors stress the importance of a Learning Commons and how it serves to bridge the gap between educational philosophy and the real world. It is a place for experimenting, playing, making, doing, thinking, collaborating, and doing.

Murray, Esra. *Teacher Librarian*. Oct 2015. 18-24. Print.
This article talks about the importance of collaboration between teacher and librarian in a Learning Commons. It is written by a classroom teacher who shares her experience collaborating with the school librarian. Since I will want the cooperation and help of the teachers in my building, this article will be a great resource.

3. Webinars, Websites, Social Networking—Identify and annotate the webinars you will take; the books you'll read. Identify and annotate the blogs and twitter accounts you'll follow.

Webinars:
Reinventing the Library (AASL) Thursday, December 2
This webinar offers tips on how to transform your library into an innovative area where young people can tinker, create, and explore. This fits perfectly with my goal to turn our library into a Learning Commons.

Exploring the Engineering is Elementary Website to Enhance Your Engineering Curriculum (AASL) Wednesday February 3, 2016
In this session, presenter Nicole O'neil will introduce us to the *Engineering is Elementary* curriculum which supports educators and children in developing engineering literacy. Since creation and experimentation are a big part of a Learning Commons, this would be a great way to bolster my knowledge of engineering for children.

Websites:
http://www.schoollearningcommons.info/ - A website created by David Loertscher and Carol Koechlin who are prominent figures in the Learning Commons movement. It offers an overview, practical advice and ideas for setting up a Learning Commons.

http://hwhitt.wix.com/wgslibrary This school recently won the "Build Something Bold Award" from School Library Journal. They have an incredible space full of technology and unique learning opportunities that I can use for ideas.

https://smithsystem.com/school-setting/learning-commons/?gclid=Cj0KEQjwnrexBRDNmZzNkf7c4c4BEiQALnlxhRWm4x_Km-ey9Mr-Ru8YaSlCYycjI3QXFUW_EL0bjsoaAgf98P8HAQ This is a vendor that sells furniture with the Learning Commons design in mind.

Twitter:
@davidloertscher – A prominent leader in the Learning Commons movement
@SHECommons – Twitter account of Strawberry Hill Elementary Learning Commons

Facebook:
David Loertscher – A prominent leader in the Learning Commons movement
New Providence Elementary Learning Commons – another innovative school with great ideas for Learning Commons

Blog
http://skillinlibrary.blogspot.com/ Skillin Elementary Library is another innovative Learning Commons model to get great ideas from

4. Conferences—Identify and annotate the conferences you will attend.

Microsoft Innovative Educator Teacher Academy – November 21, 2015 Rochester NY
This conference is designed for the K-12 classroom educator who wants to learn more about Microsoft's best tools and resources for classroom learning. This would be a great resource for me to learn the latest education innovations available so that I could come back and implement them in my Learning Commons.

MASL Conference – October 16, 2015 Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD
This conference is specifically for Maryland School librarians and is a good opportunity to learn more about state-wide initiatives and network with other librarians in the state who have Learning Commons in their schools.

5. Participation in School and District Committees, Data collection, research.

MVMPCS Governing Counsel – this is a committee of teachers, administrators, and parents who make decisions about budgeting, curriculum, and school initiatives. It would be most beneficial for me to participate in this counsel to start selling my idea for a Learning Commons

FCPS Professional Development Schools Network – With this network of resources I can partner with other schools in the county that are implementing or thinking about implementing Learning Commons.

OUTCOMES—What will occur as the result of this professional development? How does your plan support current School Improvement efforts. How will you, your students, and your school benefit?
It is my hope that I can get my school started on the road to creating a dynamic space where students can come to experiment, learn, create, and grow. My first step would be convincing our administrators, teachers, and parents that a Learning Commons fits in perfectly with our Montessori philosophy of child-centered, hands on exploration, and creativity. The next step would be to allocate more space in our building for a real library. We would then have to find creative ways to procure grants and raise funds to begin building our resources. We would need to build up our books and computers, and purchase iPads, eBooks, audio visual equipment, green screens, 3D printers, and new furniture. Once it is set up, I imagine teachers sending a small group of students who have an interest in a particular subject down to our Learning Commons space where they can work with the school librarian to learn about it in all the different ways possible. Teachers could also use the space for collaborating and creating lessons. Our school's mission is to deliver the best free Montessori education to our students. We strive to educate the whole child; to expose our students to a multitude of rich learning experiences that broaden their horizons and ignite their passion for learning.   A Learning Commons is just the thing that can help bring our already awesome curriculum into the 21st century.