Session 1 Homework – ED 703 – Lori Welty

Aspects of Bellow's talk that Resonated with me as an Educator

Many aspects of Bellow’s talk resonate with me. He applied creativity in his presentation with 140 PowerPoint slides in 15 minutes. The audience and I were wondering how he was going to achieve engagement with 140 slides. He succeeded!! He held the attention of his audience much longer than an average presenter. Today, it requires an increased level of **creativity** to engage an audience.

**Lifelong learning** while supporting others in their journey is of key importance. I am fortunate to be an educator during this exciting time of change and am always looking for creative approaches to supporting teachers’ learning while keeping things clear and simple for them. We are often looking for ways to support learning and technology integration, but if the challenge becomes too complex then teachers will “shut down.” Another critical element is simplicity. This is the message I rarely hear but understand the benefits. I’m pleased I am in a role in which I can affect change for many classrooms and students.

**Failure!!** Another societal change that is happening slowly is the understanding that failure supports innovation as presented by Wagner in his book, Creating Innovators. This paradigm shift is challenging as it is not part of our DNA. We are programmed to win, win, win. How do we fail with a positive outcome? As teachers, we need to create an environment that allows for failure. We need to show students examples of individuals who have failed and then excelled. We need to celebrate the times when we fail or are unable to answer all the questions. Then perhaps we will affect societal change.

**Fear!** Our job is to support teachers when they feel vulnerable and fearful. If we maintain a positive, “can do” attitude while taking risks with our peers, we can decrease the level of fear. A positive attitude is contagious and has a significant impact on change. As leaders we must listen, empathize and then move forward. The teacher often needs to unload his/her baggage while we listen patiently, however, we must then forge ahead.

**We are living in a time of challenge which leads to numerous opportunities!!!**