

Foreword

Phyllis Curtis-Tweed

Lynette Woods

Co-Editors

The theme for volume 5 *Voices in Education: Journal of Bermuda College*, in continuation of the overarching focus on Student Success, is “Educational Leadership: Administrative, Collegial, Classroom, and Corporate”. The authors, in each article, share a different perspective of leadership in their treatment of this topic.

The volume starts with an editorial by former middle school principal, Dr. Timothy Jackson, who states that leadership is about influence and relationships. According to Jackson, effective leaders must employ 21st century leadership approaches and lead with love as opposed to fear. He stresses that there is no timeout in leadership in Bermuda where Principals are well-known and expected to behave as leaders at all times. Jackson states that being conscious of the impact of one’s words and behaviour everyday is of paramount importance to being an effective leader in Bermuda. It is a part of the leader’s obligation to be accountable to the behavioural perceptions that accompany the office.

The theme of influence and the underlying responsibility of leaders is continued as Meijiuni describes the relation between informal learning and social justice in higher education. She posits that higher education should take responsibility for empowering those subjected to inherent forms of social injustice. Higher education leaders should work to raise the consciousness of learners to identify and process these tenets of social injustice in a positive manner.

Adebayo and Babalola remind us that effective leaders must address the needs of all segments of the community, including the needs of inmates by providing rehabilitation services that will enhance their readiness to re-enter society. Appropriate rehabilitation programmes can make former inmates more marketable and self-sufficient.

In her discussion of plagiarism, Liles states that colleges have to take steps to inform students about the nature of plagiarism and then hold them accountable. The prevention of plagiarism is everyone’s responsibility: from instructors and librarians who teach students what plagiarism is and how to avoid it to administrators who develop policies that promote integrity in writing. The development of an overarching structure to handling plagiarism is the duty of college leadership.

The volume closes with a review of John Maxwell’s latest book, *Leadershift*. In this book, Maxwell discusses the importance of continuing to grow as a leader to be most effective. He identifies transformational leadership as the pinnacle of leadership approaches. Transformational leaders lead effectively and take responsibility for developing others.

A unifying latent message across all articles in this volume is the importance of leaders understanding and embracing their responsibilities. According to these authors, effective leaders must embrace behavioural perceptions of their office, meet the needs of all segments of the community, and provide structures that combat problems like plagiarism and social injustice. At the heart of leaders’ responsibility is the notion that they must continuously develop their skills, and ultimately think beyond the self to develop others.