

# Foreword

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**T**he Mentor: taken from Greek mythology, loyal friend of Odysseus, left in charge of Odysseus's household and son. By definition, a "wise and trusted counselor."

My definition would be simpler: a professional person who recognizes the need to promote his or her profession—the professional who not only will give back to his or her profession, but by doing so, really invests in the future of the profession by paying forward.

The three authors of this book know the meaning of mentor and mentee. Each has given and received knowledge, strength, and love that will make each a better person and a better professional through his experiences. The mentees can look back on the experience and now begin modeling for others what they have learned. The mentor has "planted his field" and with a little water and fertilizer can watch it grow into a productive crop, which can be passed on for growth. The chain should never be broken.

This book, *Mentoring Principals*, contains six distinctive sections:

First, supporting data and rationale for mentoring;

Second, a guide to begin your own mentor program, whether with one person or several;

Third, a set of formal mentoring agendas spanning the academic year and linked to NAESP standards for principals;

Fourth, stories of job-embedded mentoring-in-the-moment as told frankly by the mentor; enriched by the reflections of his two mentees; recording both sides of their triumphs, their frustrations, their challenges; providing an authentic case study of how, in this partnership, each worked to make the other successful and together they turned crises and crunch times into professional growth opportunities. Readers are very likely to relate these stories to the everyday experiences of their own learning and professional development;

**viii • Mentoring Principals**

Fifth, widening the lens from this case study to exemplary mentoring practice around the country, lead mentors share words of wisdom, tips for mentors, their own stories, and lessons learned;

Last, the authors reflect on how the mentoring partnership has impacted and been of value to their professional development and job performance.

Reading the stories and reflections in Part IV, sometimes you will laugh, sometimes you will say “that happened to me,” and sometimes you will just scratch your head.

You too can create an experience for yourself and some other professional by reading this book and following some of the suggestions, noting some of the pitfalls, but more importantly, giving your knowledge and skill learned from the smooth pavement or rough road you have traveled in your professional life.

While this book centers on school administrators, it can be applied to any job, profession, or station in life. A “wise and trusted counselor” is a valuable asset for anyone.

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