

Courage—Your Untapped Reservoir in the Workplace

Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others. — Aristotle

- How might an educator's life and processes change if they discovered that some of their everyday behaviors demonstrated profound courage?
- How might students, teachers and administrators be empowered to achieve at higher levels if they witnessed and identified with the etymology of daily courage?
- What action would you take, right now, if you had unlimited courage?

If you find inspiration and value in these questions, please consider booking me as your keynote speaker. I will describe how to make courage work for the schools, where acts of personal courage rarely roar.

Etymology of Courage

To understand the importance of courage requires educators to embrace and actively teach to the true definition of courage. Courage originates from the Old French *corage*, meaning “heart and spirit.” This definition moves us past the narrow meaning of facing physical danger (the “heroic”) to embracing what is already in every heart and revealing our true Self. The heart has an unlimited reservoir to hold all that we are to be, right now, leading Aristotle to write:

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.

“Courrrrage!” roared the Lion.

What does inspired courage look like when it's actively taught and practiced, and why is this topic important to educators at all levels? One former International Baccalaureate program administrator has followed my work on courage development for years. She shares, “We need teachers, colleagues, administrators, school board members—everyone in the education system—to truly believe that being courageous in our convictions and actions doesn't make us anathema to our peers and superiors, doesn't make us outlaws in the system, doesn't make us show-offs where we work—it makes us more authentic and less cardboard. It's the very first step to being a trusted or respected leader. When we show courage, we become models for others . . . and we all benefit from a strong relationship with a mentor or model.”

The issue is how courage TAKES courage and why it needs to be *en-couraged* in our school systems.

Courage Advances Teaching, Leading and Learning

My courage research crosses a range of years and demographics. Educators at all levels and professions will learn to recognize, display and transfer everyday courage actions so courage migrates from an intangible to a tangible. We will understand:

- How everyday courage is defined (video)
- How to uncover, validate and sustain a personal reservoir of courage
- How to recognize the hindrances to everyday courage (and courageous leadership)
- How to distinguish courage backers—ways leaders construct courage
- How educators can instill courage in others

How this keynote adds value: Regardless of one's role in the district, each position offers the unique potential to embrace personal courage, foster it in others, and create a culture of positive forward movement to improve the school environment in measurable ways.

This keynote will inspire with facts, anecdotes, research and humor. **“Make courage our daily legacy”** will become an unwritten mission for every participant.

Why Choose Me as Your Speaker?

I have taught for nineteen years at the University of Denver but was also a fifth and sixth grade gifted elementary teacher. Time passes but challenging issues and a call for courageous responses from our schools remain constant.

For over 20 years as a global speaker and author, I have researched courage behaviors and studied the impact on the human condition. I have defined the concrete courage action skills that empower people to develop personal courage and use it in everyday capacities. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote:

Everyday courage has few witnesses. But yours is no less noble because no drum beats and no crowds shout your name.

One of my clients wrote, “I can always tell when a speaker has been successful at our conferences because I hear the group repeating concepts, anecdotes, examples, etc., that they heard during the presentation. And this was certainly true with Sandra’s keynote.”

I hope you perceive value in this critical topic: “Courage—Your Untapped Reservoir in the Workplace.”

FREE GIFT: Attendees will receive my E-Booklet PDF on my topic (normally sells for \$10.00).

Courageously yours,

Sandra Ford Walston, The Courage Expert

Letters of recommendation available including DKG.