Taking Charge: Leading With Passion and Purpose in the Principalship

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Summary:

Taking Charge: Leading With Passion and Purpose in the Principalship is a practical guide to the ‘craft knowledge’ of leading schools from an experienced principal, school reformer and educational consultant. Drawing on his own experiences as well as the experiences of other school leaders, Shaw captures the essence of what principals do and the leadership traits they need to take charge for school improvement. Through vivid portrayals, Taking Charge presents the strategic actions taken by principals in their first 15 months on the job and demonstrates the importance of taking action quickly. From these narratives of practice emerge four guiding principles, or ‘pillars’ that underpin participatory leadership in high-performing school learning communities:

- Knowing the student well
- Strong inclusive professional relationships
- Continuous development of intellectual capital
- Powerful and cohesive pedagogical responsiveness in teaching across all classrooms

Taking Charge delivers a comprehensive program for successful school leadership that will speak to new and experienced principals alike, as well as any school leader who wants to make a difference in the life chances of all students.

Supporting Resources:

- The Fourth Way: The Inspiring Future for Educational Change (CO3209)
- Principals Who Learn: Asking the Right Questions, Seeking the Best Solutions (107002)
- Leadership Sustainability: System Thinkers in Action (CO4588)
- Qualities of Effective Principalship (108003)