

DKG Leadership and Professional Learning Communities

Dr. Beverly Helms, 2012-2014
International President

- 1984- Evergreen State College - pioneer
- 1985 - Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education
- 1986 – key factors define *community*
 1. Membership
 2. Influence
 3. Fulfillment of individual needs
 4. Shared events and emotional connections

- 1990- shift from individual as unit of

Prior to 1990's the individual seen as Unit of Instruction.

Knowledge and knowledgeability are cultural practices exhibited by practitioners belonging to various communities known as communities of practice.

Learning Community –

- A group of people who share common academic goals and attitudes;
- Meet semi-regularly to collaborate

Most learning communities convene regularly and frequently to engage in collaborative professional learning to strengthen their practice and increase student results.

Learning Community
members are accountable
to one another to achieve
the shared goals and work
in transparent, authentic
settings that support their
improvement.

Dr. Gwen Simmons

International Parliamentarian

DKG – A Productive Learning Environment

Peter Senge – The Fifth Discipline

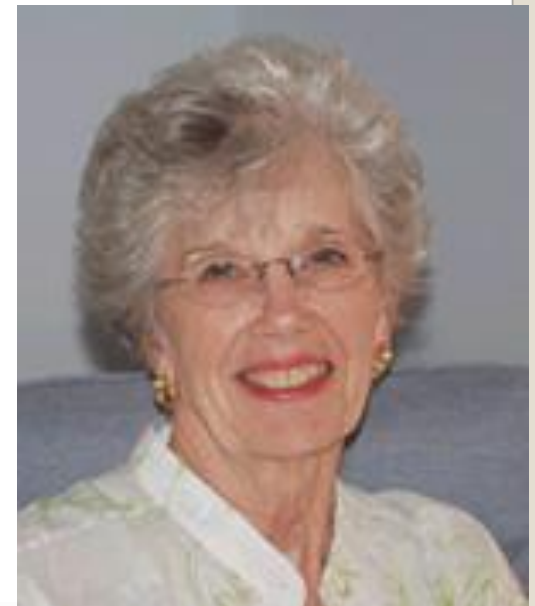
Systems Thinking

Mental Models

Team Learning

Shared Vision

Personal Mastery



Dr. Lace Brogden, Canada

Chair, Leadership Development Committee

1. Learning strategies reach only a certain group of members at a certain point in time.
2. Read ***Strength Finder 2*** by Tom Rath and commit to put your strengths in action in leading others.
3. Share success stories. ***The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative*** by Thomas King.



Margarita Hanschmidt - Estonia

- Committees, boards, conventions and conferences provide excellent learning communities. Delivery may not occur at chapter and state levels.
- Mentorship must occur from those more experienced before DKG is a true learning community at all levels.



Dr. Carolyn Rants, Iowa
2008-2010 International President

International Communications
Committee began learning communities
by creating a buzz with one page
newsletter and used elevator speeches.
Committee continuing with blog posts
this biennium.

Iowa DKG is forming learning communities
regarding *Human Trafficking* at state level
and moving it to the chapter level.



Dr. Lyn Schmid – Pennsylvania

2014-2016 International President

DKG needs to work on concept of Communities of Learners and Leaders. Start from belief that chapters composed of learned women, like all people, learn and grow throughout their lives.



Jean Gray

2002-2004 International President

DKG and its membership is a learning community.

Founders knew that young educators were at threshold of lifelong learning.

DKG – a Stage on which members find:

Role models

- Encouragement
- Challenges
- Verification of worth
- Professional updates
- Receive recognition
- Enjoy life-long friendships



Claudia Estrada, Guatemala

DKG promotes learning communities but they are not always taken advantage of.

Social Network communities on website
Scholarships

Leadership positions at the international level;

International Speakers fund;

Serving on international committees, the
administrative and executive **boards**

Nita Scott, Texas



Expand our mind set

Free the organization from
restrictions

Share members' expertise
through existing and expanding
communities



Dr. Kay Clawson

Every communication with a DKG member is an effort to start a learning community

Reaching out and asking about learning communities is the start of a DKG Leadership Learning Community!

Barbara Rodriguez, Puebla

YES! DKG promotes Learning Communities!

1. Members share the same mission and vision. We are women who love to empower others.
2. Feeling of love or genuine spiritual fellowship motivates every aspect of our lives.

Anna Isabel De Aguilar, Costa Rica

“DKG fostered my growth personally and professionally as an active member and during the time I served the Society in different positions and at different levels.”

DKG is a learning community because

- Involves principles, values and aspirations
- Unites, motivates and develops members
- Allows members to work cooperatively to reach goals

Riitta Liissa Arpiainen, Finland

“In order for DKG to be an effective learning community, members must learn to trust and respect each other.”



“They must be open, transparent, feel comfortable and have the courage to be honest in sharing their opinions.”



Cathy Daugherty

“DKG provides some opportunities that spark interest and result in members grouping themselves. They discuss, share ideas, expand topics, address concerns and become involved in virtual collaboration.”

Publications promote learning communities.

DKG should develop a **virtual Leadership Academy** and increase learning communities for **active** educators!

Ingibjorg Jonasdottir, Iceland

- All members have the opportunity to lead and then take different roles.
- Chapters focus on different topics.
- Visiting different workplaces and schools at all levels.



DKG provides benefits for members to participate in that affords them a larger learning community such as pursuing a graduate degree, listening to lectures, etc.

Community

- Loyalty and belonging (**membership**)
- Active not just reactive performance (**influence**)
- **Fulfillment of individual needs**
- **Shared events and emotional connections**

Learning Community

A group of people who share common academic goals and attitudes and meet semi-regularly to collaborate on classwork

Is DKG a Community?

Is it a Learning Community?

What can **YOU** do as a member, state organization and member country to make it more of one?