

Ramp-Up News

October 2017

For You:

While leadership has its rewards, it can also be quite trying as the work in schools is complex and plentiful, to say the least! For those who are new in their leadership role as a site coordinator, a recent blog highlighting tips for becoming a teacher leader who others will want to follow might be helpful:

- Surround yourself with other passionate educators.
- Lead by example.
- Stay relevant.
- Be present.
- Be bold.

Further insights about each tip can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2hLm9om>

For Staff:

It has been evident for quite some time that the world of work has changed and will continue to do so. Jason Swanson, of KnowledgeWorks, argues this point in his August 2017 article, "The Gig Economy Isn't Coming; It's Here. What Does that Mean for Education?" Swanson suggests that the gig economy, where workers are hired to do a project for a duration of time versus establish tenure, is upon us. As a result, "taskification" is occurring, which is the breaking down of formal jobs into discrete tasks, often for lower wages. Taskification also makes jobs easier to automate. The discrete skills we teach in schools, therefore, are likely to have a much shorter shelf life in the future. Swanson says, "Education will have to prepare learners to thrive in an increasingly uncertain world, where jobs and professional pursuits are reconfigured even as they are being created. It is not just technological displacement and a new future of work for which educators must prepare young people, but also new ways of organizing jobs and tasks."

To read the full article, go to: <http://bit.ly/2kkkK9j>. This is just one article that would be constructive for school staff members to read and share dialogue together at a learning meeting. Ramp-Up's Twitter (@umn_RampUp) account has many other articles that could be used as staff learning resources, too.

For Parents:

Many parents may not yet understand the increased focus and growing necessity of earning a college degree—or that “college” does not necessarily mean a four-year program. One of the new 9th grade Ramp-Up Activities in the “Planning Your Future” unit addresses the growing pay gap. In this Activity, students are asked to read an article that addresses why the earnings gap between high school and college grads is increasing. It also, importantly, points out that obtaining any kind of postsecondary credentials—whether through apprenticeships or two or four-year colleges—is financially beneficial. Might you want to share that article with parents to increase their understanding? If so, go the article can be found at:

<https://www.apnews.com/28d286cd8fa746f58ad18f79e73b19f1>