

# Foreword

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As I was leaning over my teenage son's shoulder, oohing and ah-ing over the graphic design project that he had just pulled up from Google Docs, I couldn't help but shake my head in wonder. How much has changed since I was a student! My son's world is completely different. His texts are all online. He collaborates with his classmates, sharing files that are stored in the cloud. His assignments live on a portal. For goodness sake, he's been using PowerPoint since he was in the third grade!

Given the fact that when I graduated from high school, I was beyond thrilled to get a Smith Corona Coronamatic 2500 Electric Typewriter, it's hard to wrap my head around what I'm seeing. So much has changed in such a short amount of time, and the pace is only getting faster. According to futurist Jim Carroll, "Sixty-five percent of the children who are in pre-school today will work in a job or career that doesn't yet exist." And "half of what students learn in their first year at college is obsolete or revised—by the time they graduate." Today's children need to be prepared for a future that lies beyond my imagination, and their springboard, our schools, must heed the call.

The inescapable truth is that you, as educators, are caught in the overwhelming reality that you must not only *understand* the shifting needs of today's world but, simultaneously, *create* learning environments that equip students for tomorrow's world.

You must become masterful changemakers.

What I know to be true is that you got into education because you care. You care about students. You care about your communities. You care about improving student performance, preparing them for the future as if it were today. You care about making a difference. But far too often, good teachers and talented administrators find themselves frustrated, demoralized, and burnt out by a plethora of new initiatives, standardized tests, and mandated curriculums. You're left

feeling unsupported and uninspired and sometimes forgetting why you're doing what you're doing in the first place. It's no wonder, when the demand for change rears its ugly head, that the last thing you want to do is to give it a parade.

But what if you could bring that kind of enthusiasm to improve today and embrace the future?

What if you could harness that kind of energy in your staff and collectively bring your best to make a lasting impact on the lives of your students?

What if the process of change could create a more positive, engaged, and fulfilling workplace?

What if, collectively, you could ignite a sense of purpose and pride in one another and unite your team around a shared vision?

*Shifting: How School Leaders Can Create a Culture of Change* makes this possible. The authors, with their long, rich educational backgrounds, wrote this book not only to help school leaders and their faculty proactively and coherently navigate unprecedented change on behalf of students and teachers but also to cultivate a healthy work environment where changemakers can thrive. They have written a book that uniquely weaves together the voices of experienced educators and transformational leadership and organizational practices, making it possible for educational change leaders—you—to achieve desired outcomes and have the impact they envision. As a parent and educator-advocate, I can't think of a better seed for tomorrow.

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