



Hal Urban visits the area... getting both teachers and parents ready to face the year.  
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# Educational Service Unit 17 Newsletter

## The Radford Report...Challenges vs. Contentment

*“As a teacher, have you ever wondered or taken the time to see what student expectations are for their teachers?”*

As another school year has begun you might have to check the calendar to realize that this is the 2012-13 school year. Veteran teachers and beginning teachers are expecting and hoping for a classroom of students that are capable and eager to learn. Our expectations for students are always high, especially at the beginning of the school year. As a teacher, have you ever wondered or taken the time to see what student expectations are for their teachers? To some teachers this might appear to be a silly question, while other teachers might feel threatened by student expectations.

Let’s return to the idea that teachers want students to learn at their highest capacity. In the teaching

profession, I would expect that assumption to be universal among educators. To model student learning should we as teachers continue to strive and learn new things in our own profession? Do we pattern learning for our children or are we content to teach the same thing in the same way each and every year? After five or ten years of teaching do educators attain a proficiency level that does not require any further learning in their teaching skills?

If my questions have caused you to feel irritated, then it’s time to take on a challenge and leave the contentment behind! The challenge for an educator is to learn something new in your profession that can be used to benefit student learning. The contentment of, “I’ve always done it that way,” has to be left behind.

To help teachers with the challenge of

learning something new in their profession, ESU 17 will be providing several workshops. Learn 360 is a new media tool that can help teachers connect their classroom teaching with video streaming materials. Becky LeZotte will be available to come to your school and classroom to help get you started. iPad workshops and writing workshops are also accepting registrations on the ESU 17 website to help keep you developing the skills needed for working with your students. Info on local training opportunities as well as statewide workshops can be found at our website, [www.esu17.org](http://www.esu17.org). Please visit the site regularly to stay informed on available trainings.

ESU 17 staff are challenging themselves by continuing their learning through various venues.

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## Lessons from the Classroom

### 20 Things Good Teachers Do...

1. Good teachers share one special quality...they're all a little crazy about their jobs!
2. Good teachers have two important goals...high standards in character and academics.
3. Good teachers form a partnership with parents.
4. Good teachers start teaching at the door.
5. Good teachers teach manners and the Golden Rule.
6. Good teachers create a caring community in their classrooms.
7. Good teachers protect the atmosphere from toxic words.
8. Good teachers use words that nourish the atmosphere.
9. Good teachers start every class with something positive.



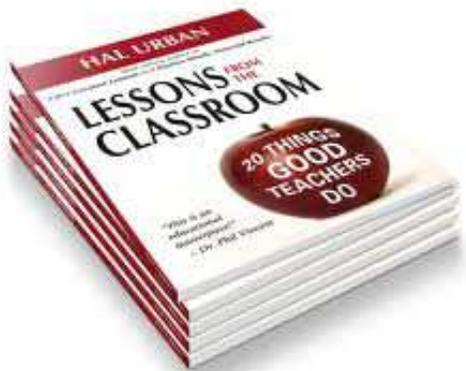
## Lessons from Hal Urban

**“Good teachers have important goals...to set high standards in character and high standards in academics.” - Hal Urban**

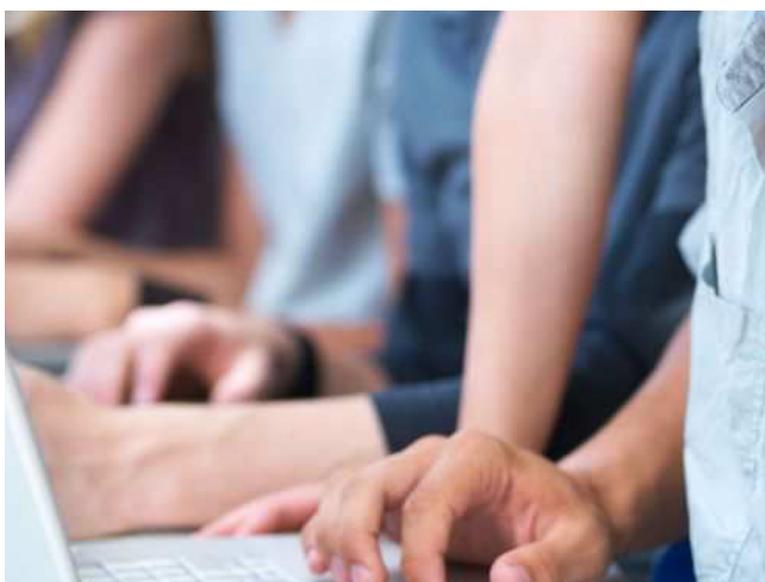
This past August, local teachers and school professionals alike were prepared for the upcoming school year with an invigorating ESU-sponsored presentation from Hal Urban. Dr. Urban is an award-winning teacher from the California coast who has not only become a successful author, but who has also traveled throughout the United States and abroad, inspiring teachers to keep striving both in and out of the classroom.

Upon arrival to the Valentine Rural High School Auditorium, Dr. Urban warmly greeted each attendee with a firm handshake and an inviting smile. This simple gesture set the stage for the remainder of the presentation. While Dr. Urban certainly focused on the educational aspect of teaching throughout his presentation, he spoke just as passionately about the classroom community that is created for each individual student. He encouraged teachers to get involved with students from the ground up as a life mentor. To accomplish this somewhat daunting task, Hal recommends starting at the very point you begin having contact with your students...at the door! Greeting students with a handshake, high five, fist bump, or even a warm smile immediately creates a welcoming environment as well as reinforces interpersonal skills. But don't just stop at the door! This environment can last throughout the day by constantly protecting the atmosphere from toxic words and actions (from both the teachers and the students)!

Check out Dr. Urban's book, "Lessons from the Classroom" and the list to the left of this column for more lessons from his amazing career! In addition, his new book, "20 Gifts of Life," is a great read for each member of the family! It focuses on bringing out the best in everyone...who couldn't use a refresher on that topic?



10. Good teachers, along with their students, have a mission.
11. Good teachers use the power of visible reminders.
12. Good teachers help their students own and honor the rules.
13. Good teachers have high standards and high expectations.
14. Good teachers help their students understand the power of choice.
15. Good teachers tell good stories.
16. Good teachers use the power of quotations.
17. Good teachers laugh with their students.
18. Good teachers help their students set lifetime goals.
19. Good teachers catch their students doing things right.
20. Good teachers get better every year.



## The Media Center Gets a Makeover

The media center has changed locations and coordinators, not to mention updating their technology!

The ESU Media Center has just gotten a facelift! Germaine Johnson, the former center coordinator, has recently retired and has begun enjoying the more relaxing side of life. Meanwhile, Becky LeZotte has done a wonderful job picking up where Germaine left off as the new Media Coordinator.

Not only has the center moved from Valentine to Ainsworth, but it has also started offering a new media-on-demand program known as Learn 360, which will take the place of Power MediaPlus. Multiple trainings on Learn 360 have been offered, with more to follow! If you need any help with Learn 360, feel free to contact Becky LeZotte for assistance.

Please take a moment to update your Media Center contact information with the information found in the column to the right of this article and please feel free to contact Becky with any media-related questions you may have!



## What's Coming Up? ESU Fall Events Sneak Peak

**MAP Regional Meeting (Polycom)**  
October 2nd, 2012  
9:30 am–3:00 pm  
ESU #17 Tech Center, Ainsworth

**NSSRS Workday**  
October 2nd, 2012  
9:30 am–3:00 pm  
ESU #17 Tech Center, Ainsworth

**Early Learning Guidelines—Mathematics**  
October 13th, 2012  
9:00 am–3:00 pm  
Peppermill Restaurant, Valentine

**Mental Health Supports and Strategies for Infants and Young Children**  
October 18th, 2012  
2:00 pm–6:00 pm  
Valentine Niobrara Lodge, Valentine

**2012-2013 Statewide Crisis Team Training**  
October 22-23, 2012—Levels I and II at ESU #10, Kearney  
October 29-30, 2012—Levels I and II at Country Inn and Suites, Lincoln

**MimeoStudio Interactive Board Training—The Basics**  
October 24, 2012  
9:00 am–3:00 pm  
ESU #17 Tech Center, Ainsworth

**Fall 2012 NNNC Regional Writing, Analytic Scoring, and Data Retreats**  
November 1, 2012—Grade 11  
November 6, 2012—Grade 8  
November 14, 2012—Grade 4  
8:30am-3:00pm  
Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk

For more information, upcoming trainings, or to register, visit our website at [www.esu17.org](http://www.esu17.org)!



**Contact Info**  
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## 5 ways to become a healthier you...

**1** Eat less: Skip condiments and dipping sauces. These flavor enhancers can make you eat 40 percent more food than if you ate it without them.

**2** Walk your way to a better mood. A brisk daily jaunt can help alleviate stress, anxiety and depression.

**3** Not exercising can be just as deadly as smoking, says a recent study...so keep moving every day!

**4** Meditate your way to a more positive outlook. People who meditated regularly were happier, calmer and more compassionate to others.

**5** Pump iron to get brawny and brainy. Routine strength training may ward off dementia in those already experiencing lapses in memory.

# Making Feedback to Students Effective

Feedback is one of the most important tools to use in the classroom. Keep reading for a few tips on how to use this tool efficiently and effectively!

“Gathering and assessing feedback are really the only ways teachers can know the impact of their teaching,” says Australian educator John Hattie in the *Educational Leadership* article, “Know Thy Impact.” The problem is that not all feedback is effective. Hattie offers these suggestions for making feedback work:

**Clarify the goal.** “The aim of feedback is to reduce the gap between where students are and where they should be,” says Hattie. “With a clear goal in mind, students are more likely to actively seek and listen to feedback.” The teacher might provide scoring rubrics, a completed example, the steps toward a successful product, or progress charts.

**Make sure students understand the feedback.** “When we monitor how much academic feedback students actually receive in a typical class, it’s a small amount indeed,” says Hattie. Teachers need to check with students to see if they’re getting it. This may involve asking them to interpret written comments and articulate next steps.

**Seek feedback from students.** Do they need help? Different strategies? Another explanation? Teachers who listen to students can adapt lessons, clarify work demands, and provide missing information, all of which helps students do better.

**Tailor feedback to students.** Novice students benefit most from task feedback, somewhat more proficient students from process feedback, and highly competent students thrive on feedback aimed at self-regulation or conceptual understanding.

- Task feedback – How well the student is doing on a particular task and how to improve.
- Process feedback – This might be suggested strategies to learn from errors, cues to seek information, or ways to relate different ideas.
- Self-regulation feedback – This helps students monitor, direct, and regulate their own actions as they work toward the learning goal – and helps build a belief that effort, more than raw ability, is what produces successful learning.

**Avoid ineffective feedback.** Researchers have found that praise and peer feedback are problematic. “Students welcome praise,” says Hattie. “Indeed, we all do. The problem is that when a teacher combines praise with other feedback information, the student typically only hears the praise... The bottom line seems to be this: Give much praise, but do not mix it with other feedback because praise dilutes the power of that information.”

**Create a climate of trust.** Students must understand that errors and misunderstandings are part of learning and not be afraid of negative reactions from peers or the teacher if they make mistakes.

Adapted from Marshall Memo 451

“Know Thy Impact” by John Hattie in *Educational Leadership*, September 2012 (Vol. 70, #1, p. 18-23), [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org); Hattie can be reached at [jhattie@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jhattie@unimelb.edu.au).



## The Mandt Moment

Read below to discover the 4 A's of a safe and caring school...it may be more important than you think!

Mandt teaches the importance of promoting the Four A's: attachment, achievement, autonomy and altruism in building a safe and caring school environment.

**Attachment** provides a positive bonding in the school environment. This occurs when students sense that adults care about them and provide guidance and support for academic as well as social needs.

**Achievement** requires that conditions for internal and external motivation are present. There is recognition that academic achievement is enhanced when students develop social, interpersonal and cultural competencies. This teaches the skills of planning, decision-making and conflict resolution.

**Autonomy** is enhanced when students develop positive identity, including personal power, self-esteem, sense of purpose and a positive view of their personal future. This also includes encouraging positive values such as integrating honesty, responsibility and restraint.

**Altruism** occurs when students internalize positive values including caring, empathy, equality, and social justice.

The incorporation of these concepts in the classroom builds an environment where students are safe and encourages learning both academically and socially.

## EHA August Wellness Challenge Train Your Brain!

This past August, members of the ESU staff participated in the "Train Your Brain" wellness event sponsored by the EHA Wellness Team. Each day, participants were required to exercise their brains by spending 20 minutes doing brain-strengthening activities. These activities could range from reading a good book to trying parasailing. As long as you were using your brain power, it counted! In addition to the activities required for the challenge, there were also several brain-strengthening recipes and ideas provided by the wellness team.

In order to be eligible for the challenge prize, you had to be compliant 24 days of the month. Several ESU staff members were entered into the drawing for the prize! A special congratulations goes out to Nicole Buchanan, one of ESU's Resource Teachers, for being selected as a Train Your Brain prize winner!

Now that our brains are in fine form, it's time to work on our bodies. Next month's challenge is a breakfast challenge. For those of us who don't always take the time to eat a healthy meal before we head out our doors, this one could be a whopper! If you don't currently participate in the EHA Wellness Challenges, but are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact Jan Foster via email or phone for more information!

## The Radford Report, Cont... Challenges vs. Contentment

An opportunity that will be available to educators is enhanced video conferencing through an ESU 17 bridge. This new piece of equipment will allow new ways of communication for teachers and administrators. The bridge will be installed in approximately six weeks. Ben Anthony will provide more information on this educational feature as it becomes available.

I would like to thank all of the people that participated in the Hal Urban workshop at Valentine and Ainsworth. I hope that you received some good ideas that can benefit your students. We continue to value your ideas for future workshops that can benefit teachers and students. It's never too late to learn new ideas for professional advancement. Never be content with what is happening in your classroom, but continue to strive for new ways to reach your students.

-Dennis Radford