

## **Gifted Children in this Flattened World**

- Autonomous Learner Conference
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## **Topics We'll Touch On**

- **The Flat World** - what it is
- **Hope** - and its importance
- **Partnership for 21st Century Skills** - its role
- **Success** - and the gifted child
- **Being The Parent** - or The Teacher
- **Expectations** - and the Autonomous Learner
- **Technology** - for the children and the adults

## **The Flat World**

- "No matter what your profession--doctor, lawyer, architect, accountant--if you are an American, you better be good at the touchy-feely service stuff, because anything that can be digitized can be outsourced to either the smartest or the cheapest producer, or both."

- Thomas Friedman in [The World is Flat](#)

## **CHANGE**

"Change is hard.  
Change is hardest on those caught by surprise.  
Change is hardest on those who have difficulty changing, too.  
But change is natural; change is not new; change is important."

- --Thomas Friedman in [The World is Flat](#)

## STEM

"We have observed a troubling decline in the number of U.S. citizens who are training to become scientists and engineers, whereas the number of jobs requiring science and engineering (S&E) training continues to grow."

- --National Science Board, 2004

## 21st Century Skills

- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Oral and Written Communication Skills
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Knowledge of Foreign Language
- Creativity/Innovation
- Making Appropriate Health/Wellness Choices
- -Partnership for 21st Century Skills
- <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>

## Hope

- "By instilling hope, we teach our kids that they're not merely passive recipients of everything that happens. Modern psychology and education have been too preoccupied with repairing damage when our focus should be on building strength and resilience, especially in children."

- - Dr. Martin E.P. Seligman
- psychologist and author of Learned Optimism, 1998

## Higher as compared to lower hope people:

- \*have a greater number of goals,
- \*tackle more difficult goals,
- \*have success at achieving their goals,
- \*perceive their goals as positive challenges,
- \*have greater happiness and less distress,
- \*have superior coping skills,
- \*recover better from physical injury, and
- \*report less burnout at work

(Elliot, 1999; Olenchak, 2001, 2005; Snyder et al., 2000; Snyder & McCullough, 2000).

"Nothing defines our age more than the furious and relentless rate of change. Taking charge of change requires hope."

-- Arthur M. Schlesinger

"The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started."

-- Norman Cousins

## Success

- Reward effort--not perfection
- Applaud persistence
- Acknowledge learning--not grades
  
- Research/Work by Carol Dweck
- Books: Mindset and Self-Theories

"One very formative part of my life that led to **creative thinking** as well as a **work ethic** was **music**. I was a serious classical musician, which definitely teaches hard work--and, for that matter, **hard work** all on your own--not like practicing with a sports team. But it also teaches you to interpret **themes and ideas** in new ways to make them your own."

- --Eric Stern, Ph.D. in Biomedical engineering with an expertise in nanotechnology, Yale University

"So much of science and engineering is about **work ethic**--the willingness not only **to slog through** all the fundamentals but also **to stick with** an experiment even when it fails the first twenty times."

● Eric Stern

### Being the Parent

- Wisdom of Experience
- Common Sense Approach
- 20 Year Impact
- Respect
- Individual Responsibility
- Is It Worth It?
- Individual Needs/Uniqueness
- ALM

### Expectations

"Sadly, many ... white, American, middle class parents [told me] that the 5th grade work was too hard on their kids. They couldn't possibly complete it and have time to "be a kid." These worrisome parents merely set low expectations for children by running interference; the scary parents ... think everything is great and never demand more. If their kids do OK and have fun, then they must be getting a great education."

● --Malcolm Davidson, teacher, Washington State

### 21st Century

- 21st Century learners must not be educated in the manner of the industrial age.
- They must participate in and embrace
- the **globalization** of our society,
- up-to-date **technology** tools,
- and **real-life** experiences.

## Shift Happens

- <http://youtube.com/watch?v=ljbI-363A2Q>

"...the United States is the only industrialized state without an explicit national policy for promoting broadband."

- --Thomas Blecha, a former U.S. foreign service officer

## Networks

- Gifted Education 2.0 is **the** social network devoted to gifted learners and 21st century innovations in gifted education.
- There is a group just for ALM!
- Join us!
- <http://www.giftededucation.ning.com/groups>

In China today,  
Bill Gates is Britney Spears.

In America today,  
Britney Spears is Britney Spears

and that is our problem.

- --Thomas Friedman