

FOREWORD

Professor Emeritus Michael Fullan

Lyn Sharratt and Gale Harild have written a gold mine of a book covering virtually everything that matters in instructional improvement and whole-system success. The book is crystal clear on charting the course, showing how leadership matters, bringing *all* children into the picture, closing the gap of learning, positioning choice of pathways, and being explicit that skilled teachers matter a great deal.

Every chapter is a treasure trove of ideas, tools for action and assessment, and strategies and tactics rendered with magnificent clarity through graphics, charts, checklists, and guides to moving from good to great through continuous action.

Here is a book that has more features and aids to thinking and action than I have ever seen in one location. Each of the six chapters manages variety, comprehensiveness, coherence, and specificity. We find clear narratives, conceptual frames, step-by-step guidelines, powerful graphics, summary tables and figures, and clear data and evidence. We have story vignettes of what “good to great to innovate” looks like in practice as told by direct implementers. And a special treat: Each chapter is capped by commentary from leading researcher/practitioners who are specialists on the topic: Avis Glaze reflects on “charting the course,” Ken Leithwood on “leadership matters,” Alma Harris on “all faces matter,” Louise Stoll on “closing the gap,” Yong

Zhao on “choice matters,” and Suzie Boss on “skilled teachers matter”; and Andy Hargreaves provides a thought-provoking epilogue.

Good to Great to Innovate is at once complete in its coverage but seems compact. I think Lyn and Gale are able to do this because they have lived this journey with their own local action and depth, but have also refined and extended their savvy by so much work and application around the world. The authors have distilled their wide range of knowledge in a manner that is clear while having depth. They make it inevitable for the reader to see both the forest and the trees.

There is a great deal of reform going on in the education world, but much of it misses the point, or approaches it superficially—what I have called “the wrong drivers for whole-system reform.” There is a huge emphasis these days on teacher appraisal and instructional leadership for principals, again missing the mark as I have recently described in *The Principal* (Jossey-Bass, 2014). We should all pause and absorb the depth of *Good to Great to Innovate* and implement the steps to *all* students’ success. You will think differently, be able to challenge the “status quo,” and have greater impact by using this high-yield treat of a book.

About Professor Emeritus Michael Fullan

Michael Fullan, OC (Order of Canada), is professor emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. He was awarded the prestigious Order of Canada in December 2012. Recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform, Michael is engaged in advising policymakers and local leaders around the world in helping to achieve the moral purpose of all children learning. His books have been published in many languages.

Fullan has served as a special advisor to the premier and minister of education in Ontario from 2003 to the present. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Nipissing University in Canada; the University of Leicester in England; and Duquesne University in the United States.

His book *Leading in a Culture of Change* was named the 2002 Book of the Year by Learning Forward, *Breakthrough* (with Peter Hill and Carmel Crévoila) won the 2006 Outstanding Book Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, *Turnaround Leadership in Higher Education* (with Geoff Scott) won the Bellwether Book Award in 2009, *Change Wars* (with Andy Hargreaves) was named the 2009 Book of the Year by Learning Forward, and *Putting FACES on the Data* (with Lyn Sharratt) was named the 2012 Book of the Year by Corwin. A list of his books, articles, and other resources can be found at www.michaelfullan.ca.