

**IF YOU DON'T FEED
THE TEACHERS
THEY EAT
THE STUDENTS!**

**A Guide to Success for
Administrators and Teachers**

by Neila A. Connors, Ph.D.

**Incentive Publications
Nashville, Tennessee**

“Some peoples’ food always tastes better than others,
even if they are cooking the same dish . . . because one person has
much more life in them—more fire, more vitality, more guts than others.”
— Rosa Lewis, British Hotelier

*Cover by Geoffrey Brittingham and Marta Drayton
Edited by Jennifer J. Streams and Angela Reiner*

ISBN 0-86530-457-2

Copyright ©2000 by Incentive Publications, Inc., Nashville, TN. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without written permission from Incentive Publications, Inc.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

06 05 04 03

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
www.incentivepublications.com

Dedication:

This book is dedicated to the memory of Guy Bennett, a wonderful human being and outstanding administrator.

*I first met Guy in 1983, during my internship to his school in Venice, Florida, while researching his advisory program for my dissertation. Upon entering his school, my first thoughts centered around the friendly, warm, and inviting atmosphere. After a day of observations, I asked Guy what his secret was to creating a friendly and inviting climate. Guy replied, "I have two beliefs. My first is that to be successful you must be a **cheerleader-leader**. You stay on the sidelines and cheer the staff on—appreciating all of their efforts, goodwill, and risk-taking. You don't punish the whole team for the faults of a few."*

*He continued, "My second belief is **If You Don't Feed the Teachers, They Eat the Students**. I go above and beyond to make sure the teachers who are doing their jobs—connecting with kids and fulfilling our mission—are rewarded, supported, and applauded." From that day forth, I have continually recognized outstanding administrators and noted their "Guy-isms." Thus, the birth of this book.*

As Orlo L. Day, Guy's assistant principal for 16 years, stated, "Guy Bennett was among the best of those principals who could amalgamate teachers of widely varied personalities and backgrounds into what he liked to call 'a family,' each using God-given talents in making professional contributions to the intellectual and personal growth of students." Guy is missed deeply, but he left behind the legacy of a belief system that hopefully is addressed throughout the following pages.

Here's looking at you, Guy. ALOHA.

Table of Contents

<i>Chapter One: Whetting Your Appetite—The Menu, Please!</i>	9
<i>Chapter Two: The Need to Feed</i>	19
<i>Chapter Three: Creating the Ambiance—Preparing to Dine</i>	41
<i>Chapter Four: The Administrator as Master Chef—Pass the P’s, Please!</i>	57
<i>Chapter Five: The M.E.A.L.S.</i>	77
<i>Chapter Six: If You Can’t Stand the Heat, Get Out of the Kitchen!</i>	93
<i>Chapter Seven: FAT-FREE D.E.S.S.E.R.T.S.</i>	109
<i>Chapter Eight: The Check, Please!</i>	131
<i>Acronyms Used Throughout This Book</i>	143



Chapter 1



Starting Time _____

What is your most important professional goal?

Identify FIVE positive attributes about YOU.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

When is the next PLANNED time you will be spending with the important people in your life and what is the planned activity?

What is a professional RISK you have recently taken? (Include the date.)

What specific PERSONAL activity do you have PLANNED this week to do just for you ("me time")?

How often do you REFLECT and in what way (thinking, journals, etc.)?

What is something you have been avoiding? Commit to a time and date (in writing) when you will complete this activity.



On a scale of 1–10 (with 10 being the highest/perfect score) rate the following:

Your physical self? _____ Your professional self? _____

Your intellectual self? _____ Your emotional self? _____

Your social self? _____ Your spiritual self? _____

What is the overall average of your scores? _____

Write 3–5 goals you need to set to improve your average:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Identify 10 strengths you have as a leader.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Complete the phrase, "I feel best about myself when _____"
_____."

Ending Time _____





Chapter 1

As you look back over your responses, ask yourself these questions:

** What questions were the most difficult to answer?*

** How long did it take to answer the ten questions?*

** What areas need improvement and how will I do it?*

** From my responses, what is the basis of my personal mission statement?*

Future chapters will address each of the ten questions in length. It is important, however, that you take the time to self-assess so you can begin developing a personal mission statement. Great leaders have excellent interpersonal skills as well as being introspective. Many of the following chapters will involve deep thinking and introspection with the hopes that some of the tips and tactics will assist in your own personal development. May the adventure begin.



*“ ... to stick to one’s guns come what may—
this is the gift of leadership.”*

—Mohandas K. Gandhi

