

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Boone County Library,

As most readers of this newsletter know, FOL members read to local daycare students. Also, books are delivered to certain day schools for faculty use. FOL believes this serves two main purposes: to create readers who use and need libraries and to create readers who become productive and successful citizens.

Now the next step after day schools in molding productive citizens – public education. Since “No Child Left Behind” was enacted, reams of data have been collected. Much of this data yields a strong correlation between teachers’ abilities and their work product. The question then is, “should teachers be evaluated on their work product – students doing well on quizzes?”

I doubt any teacher can be found that thinks this is a good idea. This teacher attitude is reflected in union representation. The unions, where powerful, are seeking and getting legislative action to prevent such teacher-student evaluations.

“Student assessments are designed to assess students, not teachers” is the usual comment from union reps. “It is very clear from the research into variations in teacher quality that the teacher-student correlation would be useful in helping teachers improve and the public to get higher quality work products” is a typical statement from a public interest representative.

It seems to me, not using the teacher-student correlation is bad public policy. On the other hand, not considering the quality of the raw material appearing at the classroom door in evaluating teachers is a flaw also. Without a doubt, some teachers are better than others at transferring knowledge. We have all had one or more, leading us to imagine in hindsight, if we could have had him or her for two years, whether we would have learned all we now know in those two years.

Meanwhile, this kind of gridlock and deadlock remain an impasse to improving our education system. I doubt we will ever have a compromise, a meeting of the minds leading to the best in public interest.

George Cline,

President

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1. Click on Bookstores in top red navigation toolbar.
2. In Search Bookstores, type in Booksellers **in** the Ozarks and click search.
3. In the Displaying Results, click on Booksellers in the Ozarks (Friends) and choose between Browse or Search their books.

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the Boone County Library.

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