

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward



Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

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Superior, WI May 30th – Volume 4: Number 22 [Back Issues](#)

“The future has a way of arriving unannounced.”

-George Will-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for recent additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	June 5th	5:30 PM	Coffee Shop US 2 & 63
Introduction to Biodiesel Fuel	June 3-5	All Day	Madison Area Technical College
BCEDC Board Meeting	June 9th	10 AM – 12:00	Washburn Library
Green By Design Conference	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility Field Days	June 12–13	All Day	Red Cliff / Bayfield
Invention & Idea Show	June 13 & 14	All Day	Redwood Falls MN
Natural Step Seminar	June 19th	All Day	Appleton WI
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	June 19 & 20	All Day	Cable, Telemark
Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club	July 3rd	5:30 PM	Coffee Shop US 2 & 63
Lake Superior Day	July 20th	All Day	Everywhere in the Lake Superior Basin

Different Memories and Memorials

Susan Graham is a master teacher who shared her thoughts about teaching in a [blog](#) attached to [Teacher Magazine](#). Teacher Magazine is one among many education-focused eNewsletters I receive and never seem to have enough time to read and reflect upon. Every once in awhile, I take a break, open an issue and discover some good stuff. Ms. Graham, writing on Memorial Day, reminisced about three teachers that had influenced her life broadly and accorded her a life path that made a big difference for herself and her students. The teachers she remembered were from first, sixth and eleventh grades. Each built an experience for Graham that was constructive, personal and lasting.

Graham, a National Board-certified teacher, Virginia teacher-of-the-year and a Fellow of the [Teacher Leaders Network](#)(TLN), is committed to continuous professional (and, I'll bet, personal) growth. A streaming video on the TLN site adds a dimension to the perceptions of her that isn't obvious from her writing. This woman is generously and graciously passionate about teaching and emphasizes the role of the teacher in individualizing instruction. She comments about teaching the “outliers” those who are more than a standard deviation from the mean. To those education “leaders” who never set foot in a classroom, she has harsh words capped with a comment that she teaches children not statistics.

Statistical measurements may be important for management. Someone once said you can't manage what you can't measure. Measurement identifies differences that can be celebrated or studied. Perhaps a critical trick for education is to discover when study or celebration is more important. Whatever might be said for the virtues of organizational learning, in the Peter Senge sense, schools should manage a mission where learning is very, very much owned by an individual. Teachers and teaching enable that ownership.

Graham suggests that the use of statistics is the critical difference between education research and education practice.

The TLN is, Susan Graham, suggests, an important tool to bring experiences from teachers across a broad spectrum of geography to witness about education reform. There is growing recognition that comparing schools is about as effective as comparing characteristics of different breeds of dogs and trying to draw useful conclusions about your personal pooch. Schools are as different as their communities; being good, better or best is hardly an absolute to be managed nationally. TLN is using Web tools to enable collaboration among teachers who are committed to both their own professionalism and meaningful change in schools.

She ended another blog, this one extolling the virtue of “schools” as centers of community, with a great quote from the cartoon character Charlie Brown “A good education is the next best thing to a pushy mother.”

That nicely captures a separation of institutionalized education from the individuals we create schools to serve. Remembering parents and memorable teachers is well worthy of pause to reflect on meaningful differences – and similarities.

LIGHTER SIDE:

As with most jokes the original author is unknown. Whoever you are; “Thanks!” Names, when added, are intended to tease the innocent.

Are we in good hands?

When Edward Everett Hale was U.S. Senate Chaplain he was asked; “Do you pray for the senators, Dr. Hale?”

He replied “No, I look at the senators and I pray for the country.”

Take care and enjoy a great weekend!

/BRUCE

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Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) Director

[Bayfield CountyLakes Forum](#), Board Secretary

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) Initial Registered Agent

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Acting President & CEO

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) Director

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) US Co-Chair

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) Member

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) Co-owner

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, experience, education and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about role of education in Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.