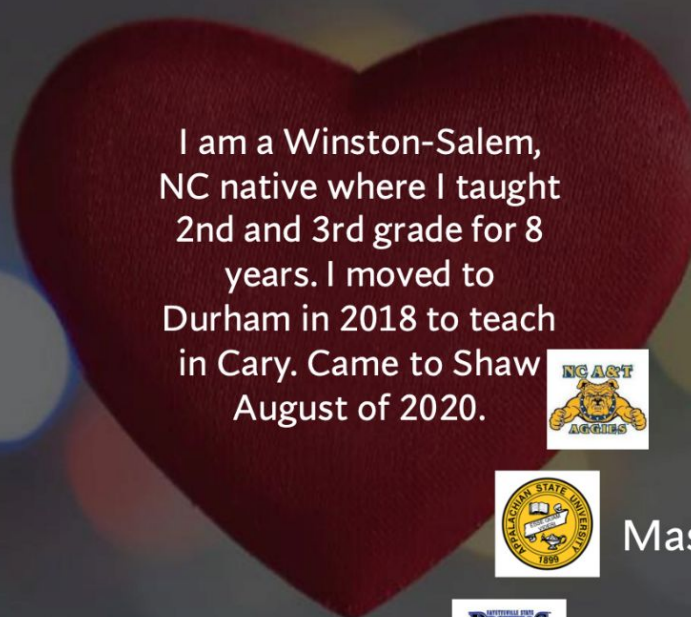


Culture of Connection:
Relationship Building in an
Unconventional World

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I am a Winston-Salem, NC native where I taught 2nd and 3rd grade for 8 years. I moved to Durham in 2018 to teach in Cary. Came to Shaw August of 2020.



Fun facts:

- I enjoy reading and writing. I have a personal blog.
- I love all things history. I love fun facts.
- I was in the performing arts and a cheerleader for 13 years.

B.S. in Elementary Education

Master in School Administration

Ed.D Fayetteville State University



Let's center
our thoughts



Relational Culture

Relational culture, a privately transacted system of discourse and definition that coordinates attitudes, actions, and identities of partners in a relationship.

Julia T. Wood



Communication

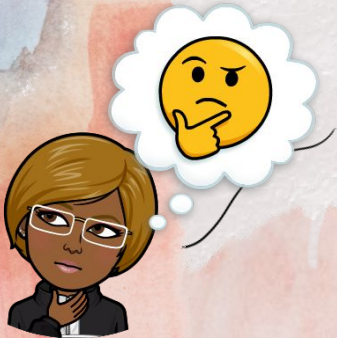
Communication constitutes human relationships. It is through talk that persons define themselves and their relationships and through talk that definitions once entered into are revised over the life of a relationship.

How do we communicate with one another?

Pre covid vs Now

Food for thought

1. What is the culture of relationships in your workspace?
2. How well do you know your coworkers/how well do they know you?
3. Do you feel comfortable sharing ideas or asking questions?



Why?

Human relations are the essence of human existence.

Relationships are a balance between effort and communication.

Relationships birth unity for we are stronger together.

Relationships are investments that build wealth.



2:00

Creating Stronger Connections through communication

1. Write a letter
2. Phone Call
3. Ask meaningful questions
4. Answer questions honestly
5. Turn video on.
6. Be present
7. Set proper boundaries
8. Go after people who are successful
9. Make yourself available.
10. Don't hold grudges.
11. Be authentic, dont match energy.
12. Start affinity groups



Write a letter

- Takes time and thoughtfulness
 - Not the norm
- Technology has made it so easy to communicate, but not connect
 - Be specific



Phone Call

- Allows you to set the tone.
- Nothing can be lost in translation.



Ask questions

- Ensure they are meaningful and thoughtful.
- Allows people to engage and and build community



Answer Honesty

How are you....Good, fine

- Open up to build connections



Turn your video on

- Forces you to actively engage.
 - Limits distractions.
- See the real personality shine.



Be present

- Be engaged
- Eliminate distractions
- Show you care



Set proper boundaries

- Be firm in your boundaries (you can't have it both ways)
- "I don't have the mental capacity to..."



Go after people who
are successful

Mentorship



Make yourself available

- Schedule some time to connect.
 - Open your door
- Move things around if possible (don't be so rigid)



Don't hold grudges



Be authentic/ don't match energy

- Be who you are
- Remember the golden rule
 - Be kind



Create affinity groups

- Create safe spaces to connect



Your Homework

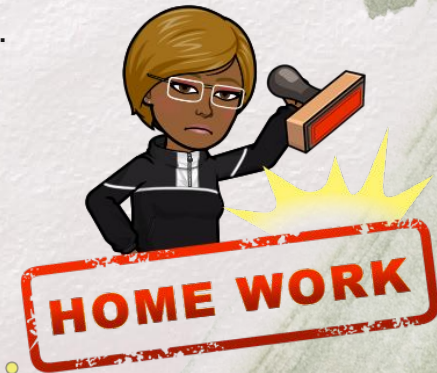
Reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a while.

Find someone new to connect with.

Try a different way to communicate this week.

If you are a texter, make a call

Try writing a letter.



Resources

[Forbes: How To Build Real Relationships in the Virtual World](#)

[5 Ways to create stronger connections](#)