

Quantum Learning: Making Prodigious Strides in
Education

by

Tonja Y. Trice

Professional Interviews

Submitted to the Faculty of
Trevecca Nazarene University

School of Education

In Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for

The Degree of

Doctorate of Education

In

Leadership and Professional Practice

May 2011

If you walk down the halls of Joe Shafer middle school any time of the day, you can find students actively engaged in their carefully prepared lessons. There is an air of excitement that was not as prevalent before. There are several factors that have brought about a change in the attitude of the administrators, students, and teachers alike. It was the implementation of Quantum Learning and the 8 Keys of Excellence. Since Quantum Learning came to Shafer, imprints in the academic environment have changed, and the environment will never be the same.

Tonja Y. Trice, an English teacher at Joe Shafer, is working on her Doctorate in Education. She is analyzing the impact that Quantum learning has had in her environment and on her school community, Sumner County Schools, overall. Tonja conducted an interview with an academic coach for Sumner County schools. This interview was conducted on November 11, 2009. The details of the interview are as follows:

Question: Has there been an observable difference in the attitudes of teachers who have structured their classrooms according to Quantum Learning's theory?

Response: Yes. The teachers who effectively use Quantum Learning instruction on a daily basis have a greater sense of expectancy from their students. They are confident their students will grasp, attain, and remember the subject that is taught to them. In addition, teachers have expressed a greater sense of job satisfaction. They enjoy teaching, and their students enjoy

the learning process. Also, I was talking with another teacher in this county who is a veteran teacher, and she said that she looks forward to coming to work every day; whereas, she had experienced “teacher burnout” before Quantum Learning. She was not sure whether she could be an effective teacher any longer but, since Quantum Learning, her career is now more rewarding. She had decided that retirement can wait a few more years. This is just one of the many examples of the impact Quantum Learning is making.

Question: From your observations, what does Quantum Learning enable a teacher to do with her students in the classroom?

Response: Quantum Learning embodies so many different facets. First of all, QL provides teachers with the ability to teach on a level that reaches every student in the class. I have seen teachers utilize more music and movement than ever before. By implementing music and movement, the teacher can design their lessons to help students learn and achieve whether they are visual, auditory, or kinesthetic learners. The **8 Keys of Excellence** allows teachers to integrate character development that makes a huge impact on how they can manage their classrooms.

Question: That brings me to my next question. Based on your observations, how have the **8 Keys of Excellence** affected classroom management? Is this something you have observed?

Response: Definitely. There is especially a notable difference amongst the novice teachers, even in this school. New teachers are naturally going to

have greater challenges concerning behavior than their experienced counterparts. Educators have reported fewer behavior problems overall with the use of Quantum Learning along with the use of the 8 Keys of Excellence. For example, **Quantum Learning's 8 Keys** allows students to not only recognize when their behavior is out of line, but it also allows them to find the right words to assist their peers with their behavior. I have heard students comment to each other that they should "speak with a good purpose." Even the younger students can easily grasp the **8 Keys** and apply corrective behavior with the teacher's assistance. In addition, teachers can assist students with ownership and responsibility. These characteristics not only assist students in the classroom, but the **8 Keys** will also assist the students who are impacted by it with positive characteristics that will last a lifetime.

Question: Why do you believe some teachers do not construct their lesson plans according to Quantum Learning after they have received training?

Response: In some instances, teachers have expressed to me that they are just not comfortable using Quantum Learning, so my job has been to assist them with finding a comfort level that fits their personality. For example, a teacher pulled me aside and said, "Vickie, I know Quantum Learning works. I have seen other teachers use it, and I have seen the students get very excited about it, but I am just not sure where to start." So, as an academic coach, I help them find a way to become more comfortable.