



how does **Jim Knight**

Support our Work?

Jim Knight, Ph.D., has spent more than two decades studying professional learning, effective teaching, and instructional coaching. Jim has published numerous books and articles but his most recent book, *Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other To Be More Credible Caring, And Connected* stands out as the perfect fit for our WOW work around Educator Effectiveness. Jim will help us identify a set of beliefs and habits that contribute to a more positive learning environment, and offer concrete strategies to help educators achieve change in their district, school, and classroom.

“When trust, respect, and clear communication become the cultural norm within a school or district, educators are more comfortable sharing ideas and learning from each other. Collaboration, team meetings, professional learning communities, and classroom interactions all improve. The Educator Effectiveness System offers the opportunity to dramatically improve teaching and learning in Wisconsin and it will—to the extent that teachers and administrators actively work to create and nurture this type of culture through better conversations with one another.” -- Jim Knight

TODAY'S WORK

I. Beliefs

- The starting point for better conversations
- Surfacing and clarifying our personal beliefs

II. Listening w/Empathy

- Putting the habit of empathy into practice
- Opening up vs. shutting down conversation

III. Fostering Dialogue

- “Thinking together” through dialogue
- Balancing, sharing, and encouraging

IV. Asking Better Questions

- Open (opinion) questions
- Fostering curiosity and engagement
- Staying fully present

V. Building Trust

- Increasing credibility, competence, and warmth
- Focusing on others rather than ourselves

Recommended Resources

Knight, Jim. *Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other To Be More Credible Caring, and Connected*. Corwin, USA. (2016)

FREE online forms to support Better Conversations:
<https://resources.corwin.com/knight-betterconversations>

CESA 6 Educator Effectiveness Online Training Sessions
<http://bit.ly/1d3suS>

Blogs:

Check out Dr. Knight's blog for insight into instructional coaching - a useful tool for all teachers:
<http://jimknightoncoaching.square-space.com/>

Twitter:

twitter.com/jimknight99