



TURNING AROUND SCHOOLS

May 31, 2014

Having been in education for 20 years now, and having had the opportunity to interact with countless consultants and content experts, I find myself continually drawn to the work of Steve Ramirez and Wendy Chalk of Lifelong Learning. Their depth of knowledge and ability to impact adult learning are unparalleled.

Where others in the field have taken the path of book writing and circuit speaking, Steve and Wendy have stayed close to the work and, more importantly, the people who do it. They chose depth over breadth, working with the same districts and schools for years and years, helping them build capacity and grow their impact. Their theory of action is grounded in the notion that real change starts with relationships of trust, and they have been building those with teachers and school leaders across the country.

At the Academy for Urban School Leadership in Chicago, where we manage schools and develop teachers, Steve and Wendy have helped us with a wide range of initiatives, from training mentor teachers to developing assessment systems to managing change processes. Most recently, they've been helping us imbed critical thinking into our teacher's planning and pedagogical practice. It's been some of the best professional learning we've embarked on as a network, and its ripple effect has been profound, for students and staff alike.

Some day I hope they take the time to write their book. But until then, I'm honored they want to spend more time working with us!

*Brian Sims*

Managing Director  
Academy for Urban School Leadership

ACADEMY FOR URBAN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP  
3400 N. Austin Ave • Chicago, IL 60634 • (773) 534-0129