

Creating Cultures of Thinking with Dr. Ron Ritchhart

Presented By: **Dr. Ron Ritchhart**
Fee: **\$125.00** (Includes lunch)

Date(s) & Time(s)

October 25, 2019: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Venue:

Executive Royal Hotel - 2828-23 Street NE

About the Session

AUDIENCE: This interactive workshop is designed for teachers, administrators and school leaders across grade levels and subject areas who are interested in supporting and developing their students as thinkers and learners.

BACKGROUND: The *Cultures of Thinking Project* is a global initiative under the direction of Dr. Ron Ritchhart, a Principal Investigator and Senior Research Associate at Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Since 2000, the *Cultures of Thinking Project* has worked with hundreds of public, independent, and international schools and museums across North America, Australia, and Europe to help transform schools, classrooms, and museums into places where thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted as part of the regular day-to-day experience of all group members.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW: Learning is a product of thinking. If we want our students to learn well and develop understanding, we must create cultures of thinking that actively engage students in thinking on an ongoing basis. However, this isn't always an easy task. Schools and classrooms are not always set up to encourage thinking. Furthermore, by its very nature, thinking is a rather invisible and elusive process. How do we as teachers promote students' thinking, recognize it when it occurs, and make thoughtfulness permeate our classrooms? To create a culture of thinking, educators must work together to create a school environment whose structure and purpose actively encourage a high level of student thinking, both individually as well as collectively, and where the thinking of all group members is regularly promoted, valued, made visible, and pushed further as a part of the ongoing, shared enterprise of the group.

During the workshop, we will focus on the practical and concrete ways educators can create a culture of thinking in their schools and classrooms, foster the kinds of thinking opportunities that lead to deep understanding of content, and how to look for evidence of student thinking and understanding. Participants will be introduced to a variety of thinking routines: what they are and how they can be used to create more thoughtful classrooms. We will explore such questions as:

- What is a culture of thinking?
- How can the cultural forces that exist in each classroom support and further develop a culture of thinking?
- How can educators use thinking routines to structure, scaffold, and support students' thinking?

About the Presenter(s)

Dr. Ron Ritchhart spent years in the classroom as a teacher before joining Harvard Project Zero where he is now a Senior Research Associate. Over the past 20 years, Ron's research has explored such issues as teaching for understanding, the development of intellectual character, creativity in teaching, and the development of thinking dispositions. He currently directs the worldwide Cultures of Thinking project aimed at supporting teachers in the creation of classrooms where thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted. Ron's research and writings, particularly his theory of Intellectual Character and his framework for understanding group culture through the Cultural Forces, have informed the work of schools, school systems, and museums throughout the world. He is the author of the best selling books based on his research: *Making Thinking Visible* and *Creating Cultures of Thinking*.