

## **Power of Personal Story: Staff Development and Student Engagement**

**After thirty years in the classroom and administration Christopher Bowers knows the power of personal story in teaching, and staff development. The following workshop has been used for team building and strategic planning for staff retreats, for academic, corporate and public service organizations.**

**There are undeveloped resources within many individuals and their organizations, the power of personal story. Everyone has a story. If we ask the right questions it's amazing the stories that come out, the experiences we can learn from, the connections we can make.**

**This workshop can be shaped to the time allowed, ranging from a thirty minute icebreaker to a half day session.**

### **Objectives for this session**

- \* learn the power of asking questions**
- \* walk away with new insights into your staff's accomplishments and stories.**
- \* find fresh resources to help you support your students**
- \* explore ways to strengthen your school's culture.**
- \* begin to look at colleagues, students and friends in a fresh way**
- \* become more aware of your own story**
- \* lessen the potential for stress and burnout by strengthening community**

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### **Why teachers enjoyed the workshops:**

Everyone has a story

I love listening to what my colleagues have done. We never get this opportunity in our busy frantic school days.

It allowed for greater interaction with unknown staff members

It would be great to build classroom relationships.

I really enjoyed hearing people share stories and feelings that I could identify with, Even though I hadn't spoken, I felt connected.

I got to think about some deeper thoughts that haven't come to the surface in a while.

( I'm as outgoing/ crazy as the speaker.)

### **How teachers want to use the ideas:**

Building connections between every student in your class.

Teach communication and questioning skills to students.

Help students foster more authentic relationships.

Prove 'underachievers' are not.

Teaching critical thinking skills.

Relaxing people in conflict.

Ice breaker at staff meeting, or leadership retreat.

### **What surprised teachers**

You 'allowed' us time to interact.

The engaging way we were caught up , immediately in thinking about the power of questions.

