

SECTION 3 TWO PIONEERS IN EDUCATION

Editor's Introduction



This brief section consists of two essays by true pioneers in adult learning. They are not only pioneers but also entrepreneurs, people who have taken their vision “on the road,” out of the ivory tower of academia or a think tank by developing non-profit corporations to implement and advance their theories of adult learning.

The first essay is by Jane Vella, founder of Global Learning Partners Inc., an international for-profit organization whose goal is to advance the creative and transformative use of education, to empower the learner. Her passionate belief is that all true education is a dialogue, not a monologue. Vella is now retired from the active leadership of Global Learning Partners Inc. She is by her own self-description an “iconoclastic old lady.” We are grateful for this introduction to her theory of adult learning. For information about her program, readers may visit the Global Learning Partners Inc. website at www.globallearningpartners.com. In addition, *Reflective Practice* has included a review of one of her more popular books, *Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach* (Jossey Bass/Wiley 2nd edition 2002), in this volume.

Roy Oswald spent thirty-one years as a consultant and staffperson at the Alban Institute in Washington, DC. The Alban Institute is a well-known American think tank that offers consulting services for congregations, denominational judicatories, and religious organizations. It specializes in helping congregations and religious leaders function more effectively and in healthier ways. Over his thirty-one years on the staff of the Institute, Oswald developed some strong convictions about what makes religious leaders effective. He has since established the non-profit Center for Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations Skills. He is a passionate spokesperson for the importance of emotional intelligence, arguing that success in religious leadership is not as dependent on the information one has mastered

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as it is on one's emotional intelligence and human relations skills. In his essay, Oswald makes a case for the important of emotional intelligence, pleading with seminaries to incorporate training in emotional intelligence in their preparation of professional religious leaders. In addition to his essay, this issue of *Reflective Practice* includes a review of Oswald's most recent book (co-authored with Arland Jacobson), *The Emotional Intelligence of Jesus: Relational Smarts for Religious Leaders* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).

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