

## Vita of Dr. Steve Van Bockern

### **EDUCATION**

- Ed.D. (1979) Curriculum and Instruction, The University of South Dakota
- M.A. (1976) Educational Administration, The University of South Dakota
- B.A. (1973) Elementary Education, Augustana University

### **EXPERIENCE**

- 1983 - Present Professor of Education, Interim Education Department Chair (2000-01)
- 2004 - 2010 President of Reclaiming Youth International, Lennox South Dakota
- 2001 - Present Adjunct Professor, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- 1998 - 2005 Senior trainer for Life Space Crisis Intervention in Hagerstown, MD
- 2003 - 2011 Director Augustana Institute for Reclaiming Students
- 1980 - 1983 Elementary principal, gifted education director
- 1974 - 1980 Elementary and middle school teacher

*SELECTED CONSULTATION, SPEAKING AND TRAINING PRESENTATIONS* in education, special education, alternative education, juvenile justice, and youth care programs.

University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Canada  
Juvenile Justice Program, Baltimore, Maryland  
Youth off the Streets, Sydney, Australia  
Child Protection Association, Bangkok, Thailand  
Department of Education, Bangkok, Thailand  
Leadership Institute, University of Vermont  
Interministerial At Risk Youth Committee, Cape Town, South Africa  
Russian Educational Academy, Moscow, Russia  
Haddisim Residential School, Haddisim, Israel  
Urban Metis Association, Vancouver, British Columbia  
Phi Delta Kappa International, Bloomington, Indiana  
Little Rock Arkansas Public Schools  
America's Youth At-Risk National Organization  
National Dropout Prevention Organization  
International Institute on Youth in Conflict, New York, New York  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Yorktown Tribal Council, Canada  
St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, South Dakota  
National Elementary Principal's Association  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Human Relations, Classroom Behavior and Group Management; Reclaiming Troubled Children and Youth; Equality, Exceptionality and Excellence; Language Development; Student Teaching Supervision; Children's Literature and Language Arts; Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary and Middle Schools; Working with Families; Reading in the Secondary Content Field; History and Philosophy of Education, Curriculum Development

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Wiebe, A.C., McCluskey, K.W., Baker, P.A., Van Bockern, S., Brendtro, L.K., & Brokenleg, M. (May, 2015). *Connecting with At-Risk Children and Youth through Mentoring: Ten Elements to Consider*. Monograph #2. Winnipeg Education Centre, University of Winnipeg: Winnipeg, Canada.
- Van Bockern, S. (2014). School Life that Matters: Building Circle of Courage Schools. *Reclaiming Children and Youth*. 22(4), 14-16.
- Frankwski, B.L., Brendtro, L.K., Van Bockern, S., Duncan, P.M. (2014). Strength-Based Interviewing: The Circle of Courage. In K.R. Ginsburg, & S.B. Kinsman (Eds.). *Reaching Teens* (pp. 237-243). Elk Grove, IL. American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Van Bockern, S. & McDonald, T. (2012). Creating Circle of Courage Schools, *Reclaiming Children and Youth*, 20(4) 13-17.
- Van Bockern, S. (2012). Reclaiming Lost Prizes: An Interview with Ken McCluskey, *Roeper Review*, 34(1), 5-11.
- Van Bockern, S. (2012). Intentional Schools: Living in the Moment, *Reclaiming Children and Youth*, 20(1), 6-9.
- Ashworth, J., Van Bockern, S., Ailts, J., Donnelly, J., Erickson, K., & Woltermann, J. (2008). The Restorative Justice Center. *Reclaiming Children and Youth* 17(3), 22-26.
- Van Bockern, S., Brendtro, L. & Brokenleg, M. (2009). A Unifying Theme for Schools: Meeting the Needs of Children. *Saany's Journal: School Administrators Association of New York State*, 38 (3), 3-5.
- Hatter, R. & Van Bockern, S. (2005). Transformational Change in a Treatment Organization. *Reclaiming Children and Youth: the journal of strength-based interventions*, 14(1), 40-43.
- Brendtro, L., Brokenleg, M., & Van Bockern, S. (2005). The Circle of Courage and Positive Psychology. *Reclaiming Children and Youth: the journal of strength-based interventions*, 14(3), 130-136.
- Van Bockern, S., Wenger, L., & Ashworth, J. (2004). Pathways from Discouragement to Courage. *Reclaiming Children and Youth: the journal of strength-based interventions*, 13(3), 149-154.
- Van Bockern, S., Brendtro, L.K. & Brokenleg, M. (2003). Nurturing our youth. In *Mentoring for Talent Development*. Edited by McCluskey, K. & Mays. Sioux Falls, SD: Reclaiming Youth International
- Brokenleg, M. & Van Bockern, S. (Summer 2003), The science of raising courageous kids. *Reclaiming Children and Youth: Journal of Strength Based Interventions*. Volume 13 (3).
- Van Bockern, S., Brendtro, L.K. & Brokenleg, M. (1999). *Reclaiming our youth. Restructuring for Caring and Effective Education: Piecing the Puzzle Together, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Villa, R.A. & Thousand, J.S. (eds.) Maryland: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.
- Van Bockern, S. (Spring 1999). A change of heart. *Perceptions*. Volume 33 (3).
- Brendtro, L.K., & Van Bockern, S. (1998) Courage for the discouraged: A psychoeducational approach to troubled and troubling children. In E. L. Meyen, G. A. Vergason, R. J. Whelan (Eds.), *Educating students with mild disabilities: Strategies and Methods, second edition* (pp. 47-70). Denver, CO: Love Publishing Company.
- Van Bockern, S. (Fall, 1998). *Reclaiming Youth in Youth - Adult Partnerships Unity in Diversity*. Eds. Warkentin, R., & Rea, D. New York: McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. Primis Publishing Co.
- Brendtro, L.K., Brokenleg, M. & Van Bockern, S. (1990, republished 2003). *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future*. Bloomington, IN: National Educational Service.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS** include, *Alternative Education, School Reform, Behavior Management, Youth at Risk/Asset Development, Bullying, Gifted and Talented Education, Curriculum Development, Elementary and Environmental Education, Brain Research, Emotional Intelligence, Moral/spiritual development of youth*

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

Reclaiming Youth International, Lennox SD, past president, consultant and trainer from 1997-2015  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
American Association of College for Teachers of Education  
Experimental charter school, Nashville, TN, charter board member  
Senior Editor, *Reclaiming Youth and Children* from 1992-2015

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Presentations will be modified to meet the needs of the audience. Presentations include but are not limited to:*

### *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*

Using key ideas developed in the book he co-authored, *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future*, Dr. Van Bockern will propose a unifying theme or core set of values that can drive the work of parents and other adults involved in the lives of young people. The First Nations and Native American traditional values of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity are the unifying themes that encourage children. Children and youth need adults in their lives in order to flourish. Practical ways to nurture well-being through relationships, learning, shared power and caring for self and others will be highlighted.

### *Creating School Life that Matters*

In education today, it seems that children must try to race to the top. They are often “weighed” more than they are fed (standardized tests), and their school lives are built around common standards and objective data. It is time to reclaim and recreate positive, strength-based schools that honor both the teacher and the child. Instead of seeing children as data points, schools must focus on the total well-being of the child and the adults who teach and care for our children. Using his research on the Circle of Courage as the road map, Dr. Van Bockern demonstrates that schools with healthy environments must give attention to meeting needs of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity .

### *Growing Children Who Thrive*

Positive youth development research and the wisdom from many reveals the essential elements needed to raise children who thrive. Simply stated children need to experience love, success and power in order to not only survive but thrive. How is it that caregivers can provide these things in a time often complicated by stress, technology demands, increased isolation and wanting more “stuff?” Drawing on the wisdom of elders and the latest research from resiliency and neuroscience studies, practical ideas will be offered.

## **About the Presenter**

Steve Van Bockern is professor of education at Augustana University and co-author of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk: Our Hope for the Future (Brendtro, Brokenleg, Van Bockern, 2007)* Drawing on experience as a public school principal and teacher at the elementary and secondary levels, Dr. Van Bockern consults internationally with numerous schools and alternative education programs. He has directed grants for the National Science Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation and has developed programs for talented students. Dr. Van Bockern is the developer of the two-day training, Schools that Matter, and a Senior Trainer of Response Ability Pathways.