



**Leadership Standards in Action: The School Principal as Servant Leader**

**By Cade Brumley. Maryland: Roman & LittleField.  
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**Reviewed by Candice Ervin**

Leadership as a school principal can be an arduous task. Despite the laborious mood that a principal may experience, the career is very rewarding. In order for one to know how to become an effective principal he or she must understand and apply certain standards to their professional title. In Cade Brumley's *Leadership Standards in Action: The School Principal as Servant Leader*, he discusses and explores the idea of being a servant leader. He explains to readers the idea of servant leadership by utilizing the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards and personal accounts of current principals. Brumley offers an enlightening perspective to current and potential leaders through his creative narration of realistic situations.

Brumley provides readers with the concept of servant leadership. He does not simply inform readers of the concept, but enlightens them through the utilization of the ISLLC standards and truthful examples. His powerful diction, biblical, and historical allusions allow readers to connect to the literature. As readers engage in the book, their thinking alters from a simplistic viewpoint of a servant leader to

a more conceptualized perspective. Furthermore, Brumley's literature assist readers in understanding the idea of a servant leader by citing various research from other credible sources. Undoubtedly, as one engages in each page there is a compelling feeling that he or she receives. The author's choice of words provides the reader with the ability to self-check and analyze their current or future practices as a servant leader. Throughout the book, the reader will notice that specific words and notions are constantly repeated such as "principalship, vision, support, collaboration, success, and servant leader." The emphasis put on these certain words demonstrates the vitality in making sure that a leader has the necessary characteristics to be successful in his or her principalship.

Eleven detailed chapters are organized into two sections. The first section focuses on leadership through the ISLCC standards and the second provides personal meetings of leaders who exhibit servant leadership through Laub's Organizational Model. *Leadership Standards in Action: The School Principal as Servant Leader* is an excellent example of how the concept of servant leadership is to be applied throughout a leader's career verses done in sporadic moments. According to

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Brumley (2012) a servant leader “replaces selfishness with selflessness, principals as servant leaders situate the needs of others and the organization ahead of greedy personal gains” (pg. 21). Brumley’s perspective is a guiding force for readers because it gives readers a concrete definition of what an effective servant leader exhibits.

As a reader engages and immerses in the powerful and inspirational words of Brumley’s literature, they will notice that he includes significant quotes at the beginning of each chapter. These quotes are particularly one of the most important aspects of the book, because it gives an initial view of what the chapter will focus and discuss. His use of various quotes will pique the curiosity of the reader and compel the reader to think critically about the information presented. In addition to the enlightening quotes and anecdotes, Brumley emphasizes how core values are a necessity in the servant leadership values. He explains that servant leaders have to be authentic to themselves, give and show trust to their staff and other leaders, and provide opportunities for collaboration among the entire faculty and staff.

The structure, layout, and purpose of the text is extremely important to any teacher or leader in an educational leadership position. Brumley’s strength in writing this book was providing leaders with insight of how to foster, develop, and continue to be an effective leader. He recognizes that the job cannot be done alone and requires hard work and dedication. Also, he conveys and emphasizes to leaders how they have to trade their selfish intentions for selfless intentions. Within this slim volume,

Brumley provides leaders with the tools that they need to maximize their call and purpose as a leader.

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#### **About the Author**

Candice Ervin is an aspiring educational leader. Her innate passion to inspire adults and students is evident by her success. She resides in Houston, Texas.