

## For Faculty Professional Development

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### Modern Dads: What All Schools Need To Know About The Next Generation Of Men

There is a quiet revolution happening across America and abroad. Driven largely by the radical changes in women's lives over the last 40 years, men today are redefining fatherhood, particularly when it comes to school involvement. Schools that understand the changing culture of fatherhood and how it impacts family life will have a distinct advantage over those who do not. Drawing on his work with thousands of parents, scenes from his documentary films for PBS and excerpts from his forthcoming book on *Modern Dads*, participants in this provocative presentation will learn:

- Why it's in a school's best interest to understand and meet the needs of its community of fathers and father-figures
- The latest research about fathers' impact on cognitive growth, social-emotional development and academic achievement.
- The 3 key strategies to consistently and meaningfully involving dads at a classroom and whole-school level
- The 5 Practices of a Modern Dad, an overview of modern fatherhood.
- Concrete examples of activities and events to engage your community of fathers.
- Practical relationship skills for dealing with difficult dads and working with mothers around father involvement.

Participants will leave with the skills and knowledge to have a more positive and successful relationship with the fathers in their school community. This presentation will have particular resonance among educators who are also parents themselves.

*"John Badalament knocked the socks off this faculty. He provided impetus for conversations to take place long after his departure. In masterful fashion, John Badalament gave this community a voice of its own."*

**-Brewster Ely, Headmaster, The Town School, CA**

*"I continue to hear rave reviews about your excellent work with us. We certainly want to have you back next year. What an awesome, awesome job you do! Thank you so much."*

**-William L. Burke III, Headmaster, St. Sebastian's School, MA**

*"The day-long teacher training workshop was a huge success...Here are some of the comments on the evaluations: John was terrific; One of the best professional days I have been to; Great variety of activities, discussions; Knowledgeable speaker; John has a fantastic presence and sense of how to convey this topic..."*

**-Barbara Swanson, Associate Director for Professional Development, New York State Association of Independent Schools**

### Gender Traps: How Marriage Problems Start In Kindergarten and Why It Matters To Educators

Research shows that the best predictor of good mental health in both children and adults is access to a wide range of traits, rather than just those deemed 'masculine' or 'feminine.' Yet, before most children enter kindergarten – even today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – they've begun learning to conform to powerful stereotypes of how boys and girls are supposed to behave in relationships.

In contrast to the ever-popular 'science of difference' and 'mars/venus mentality,' this workshop helps participants move beyond limiting notions of how males and females 'are' to a greater understanding that we all – children and adults – have the capacities to be skilled in our relationships. Healthy relationships are at the core of teaching and learning.

Drawing on his consultancy with schools, scenes from his new documentary film *Gender Traps: How Marriage Problems Start In Kindergarten*, and his private practice, John Badalament's highly interactive workshop gives participants the opportunity to step back and assess their own skills, develop new ones and sharpen the skills they already have. Specifically participants will:

- Examine their own assumptions about gender and relationships
- Review *The 5 Losing Strategies in Relationships*
- Learn practical skills, *The 5 Winning Moves in Relationships*, to use in *all* of their relationships
- See how gender stereotypes, if unchallenged, affect children's relationships and school experience

*"The feedback was excellent and we thank you for leading the sessions with such passion. The time with you was very meaningful will result in specific changes in individual school communities. I look forward to working together in the future!"*

**Jill Webb, Director, Independent Schools Association of the Central States, IL**

*"John's presentation was very moving and informative. It opened my eyes to myself and my gender role and provided activities I can use in school."*

**-Diversity Coordinator/Participant, NAIS Summer Diversity Institute 2005**

*"John's message was a vitally important one for our school community. The visit was a catalyst for the students to really think carefully about what it really means to become a woman and to become a man. The teachers will build on the subjects of gender stereotyping you raised, and address the issues further through the courses of study."*

**-Annie Bruce, Safe Place and Visiting Artist and Scholar Programme, International School of Brussels, Belgium**

