

Safe to Learn - www.safetolearn.com

Interview with Dee Beaugez, Founder of the Safe to Learn Project, 2016

Every day we send our children and grandchildren to school, assuming they are safe to learn; yet, the frequency and severity of school violence, human-caused incidents and natural disasters affecting schoolchildren are escalating.

Originally from Nevada, Founder of the *Safe to Learn* Community Project Dee Beaugez has lived in Washington State since 1999. For the past five years she has gathered a strong team of talented school administrators, school safety experts and experienced educators from California, Colorado, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. This brilliant cadre created leadership materials that are making amazing changes to the way school administrators approach school safety.

Beaugez believes leadership drives school safety. "Our world has changed substantially. I believe that school administrators (principals and assistant principals) must apply new, successful solutions to integrate safety and inspiration into every aspect of education."

More than 250 people have volunteered since 2011 to help with the *Safe to Learn* Pilot Project, including the 10 members of the [Safe to Learn Advisory Team](#). "This powerful group of professionals guided and assisted in the development of the *Safe to Learn* Project's cutting-edge tools, as well as producing books about leadership, safety, and lessons learned from past crises. These valuable lessons came from each author's personal experiences as leaders in schools during and after major human-caused terrorism, human-caused incidents, natural disasters and also active shooter incidents."

Lamar Consolidated Independent School District in Rosenberg, Texas was selected as the school district to participate in the *Safe to Learn* Pilot Test starting in 2013. Because of Principal Irma Nurre's commitment to leadership and school safety, she has served as the Team Leader for *Safe to Learn* Community Pilot Project at Lamar CISD since Fall 2013. She also believes without safety, learning is more difficult to achieve. "We have to educate students about choices and how these choices will impact their lives and their future." Principal Nurre began her 32-year career at LCISD as an educator by inspiring students to learn. Her career continued at LCISD and she served as principal at Huggins Elementary starting in 2000, and Wertheimer Middle School since 2008.

Safe to Learn launched this new endeavor gifting Ada Rosario Dolch's *Principles for Principals – Leading the Way to School Safety* to every principal for FREE. Her breakthrough book details the importance of leadership and trust if communities truly want to protect their children against 21st Century threats. Principals can download her free book at: www.safetolearn.com/principles-for-principals.html and then select "FREE" to register.

"We discovered that one way to support school safety programs is to provide information that inspires leadership. This includes designing information easily shared with principals and teachers, who then can include the solutions in monthly school projects, as well as provide historical and educational facts to stimulate discussions in classrooms, as well as supporting academic requirements.

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For example, *Safe to Learn* provided a copy of Ada Rosario Dolch's *Principles for Principals, Leading the Way to School Safety* to the principals and assistant principals at Lamar Consolidated Independent School District in Texas. Later, [principals and assistant principals shared their reflections](#). They explained that her story and solutions changed their perspectives about school safety. That awakening made them even more aware of their leadership roles in school safety."

Next, the *Safe to Learn* Team contacted subject matter experts willing to support this new safety movement with their stories and experiences. They all believed in developing the *Safe to Learn Leadership & Safety Series*. The focus remained: share with staff and teachers so they can make great decisions that protect students as an enhancement to inspired learning. "The school comments proved how Ada Rosario Dolch's story truly rekindled a deep commitment to leadership, service and school safety at each school.

Beaugez became confident of the timing to expand the *Safe to Learn* Project. "I started by increasing our staff and contributors. I requested all principals or assistant principals to participate in the next phase of the [Pilot Project at Lamar Consolidated Independent School District](#). I asked my most trusted mentors to serve on the [Safe to Learn Advisory Team](#). By October 2015, I gathered together authors who have written more than twenty books in order to finally introduce the *Safe to Learn* public web site."

Safe to Learn is providing a limited-time offer for every school principal to receive absolute FREE an electronic copy of *Principles for Principals – Leading the Way to School Safety*. To further support the outreach process we have opened our online store of resources, featuring authors dedicated to school safety and the protection of our children. Their willingness to share personal lessons learned and provide open discussions around difficult decisions allows everyone to profit from their solutions.

Safe to Learn is also currently featuring three authors books in the *Safe to Learn Leadership and Safety Series*: Lucien Canton's [Keeping It Real: Building Sustainable School Response Teams](#); Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon's [The Best Response to Violence in Your School is the Response which Never Has to Happen](#); and Rick Tobin's series *Ten Tips for Teachers for Safer Schools* for [Elementary \(K-6\)](#) | [Middle School & Junior High School](#) | [High School](#).

Safe to Learn features authors that inspire learning and literacy by sharing their skills with colorful stories of history; [travel adventures](#); discovery of the flavors of foods from around the world and also [healthy cooking](#); as well as tales filled with imagination and inspiration. We will also be adding materials and forums designed to reawaken our commitment to lifelong learning.

Safe to Learn author [Phillip Martin](#) summarized the *Safe to Learn* Community Project by reminding us that nothing can be accomplished alone, "Everything we do can be summed up in one word. Let's. It isn't done alone. We need to work together. Let's share. Let's teach. Let's explore. Let's taste. Let's save. Let's recycle. Let's accept. Let's be safe. Let's make this world a better place for everyone. Together, let's set an example."



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The Safe to Learn Project is not funded by a grant, federal funding. Beaugez explained that the Safe to Learn project is currently funded by the sales of books offered exclusively in the [Safe to Learn store](#). "Your support provides funding so our talented authors can also develop other leadership tools for teachers, administrators and students. Let's work together so children can always be safe to learn.

Contact Publisher – Dolores E. Beaugez, MA

Founder of the *Safe to Learn* Community Project, Washington State

Cellular: 425. 213.0329

Office: 425. 219.4974

Web Site: www.safetolearn.com

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Email: dee.beaugez@safetolearn.com or dbeaugez@visual-imagry.com

Inspiring Quotes about the Safe to Learn Community Project

- **Rekindle Your Commitment to Leadership and Service**

"I just finished reading Ada Rosario Dolch's book, it is amazing! It rekindled my commitment to leadership and service to our children, schools, communities, students, parents, educators,
~ [Kay Karr](#), Retired Superintendent (Texas) - [How Are the Children?](#)

- **Link to Principals and Assistant Principals Reflections about "Principles for Principals, Leading the Way to School Safety" by Ada Rosario Dolch's**

<http://www.safetolearn.com/reflections.html>

- **Safety Impacts Education**

"Safety is something that we all take for granted especially if all is well in our educational communities. After taking part in this project I realized the impact that safety has on the education and success of our students. Parents entrust us with their wonderful kids thirsty for knowledge on a daily basis and if they feel safe on campus and throughout our community they will flourish in knowledge!" ~[Trudy Harris](#), CSRM - Assistant Director, Employee Benefits/Risk Management, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (Texas)



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Inspiring Quotes, Continued

- **Be Proactive**

"With great comfort parents send and or drop off their children to our schools, never thinking that some natural or inhumane disaster might reach their children's school house door. Yet there is an enormous responsibility placed on our shoulders daily; keep the entire school community safe. This is not a task that one can muster alone. I trust and hope that sharing my experiences and journey, will cause you to stop and become proactive in the development of a school/community-wide safety plan that will only serve to be better prepared in the case of any emergency that might arise. As Covey would say, "Better to be proactive. Not reactive."

~ [Ada Rosario Dolch](#), Author of Principles for Principals, Leading the Way to School Safety (New York) [About Principles for Principals](#) | [Leading the Way to School Safety](#) | [Reflections](#)

- **Let's Set an Example**

"Everything we do can be summed up in one word. Let's. It isn't done alone. We need to work together. Let's share. Let's teach. Let's explore. Let's taste. Let's save. Let's recycle. Let's accept. Let's make this world a better place for everyone. Together, let's set an example,"

~ [Phillip Martin](#), Artist, Muralist, Teacher, Author & [World Wanderer](#) - [Blog](#)

Thank You from Safe to Learn Founder, Dolores E. Beaugez

It is important to take a few minutes to thank a few specific individuals who have truly changed my life and helped to provide the foundation for the *Safe to Learn* Project. Each person has helped me gain the confidence to take a risk and keep building *Safe to Learn* Community Project.

Without the guidance of [Ada Rosario Dolch, NY](#), [Dr. Nancy Degnan, NY](#), [Gregory Thomas, NY](#), [Cpt. Jim Olsen, CO](#), [Rick Tobin, TX](#), [Renee Domingo CA](#), [Barbara Thurman, WA](#), [Sgt. Tracy Moore, NV](#), [Kay Karr, TX](#), [Avagene Moore, TX](#), [Patti Lowry Parrish, TN](#), [Chate Asvanonda, CA](#), [Trudy Harris, TX](#), [Dr. Tom Horton, SC](#), [Kim Ebert-Colella, WA](#), [Lu Canton, CA](#), [Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon, MI](#), [Phillip Martin, OH](#), [Rick Tobin, TX](#), [Trudy Harris, TX](#), [Irma Nurre, TX](#), Donna Wenz, CA and Joe Gordon and my grandson Anthony's first amazing teacher [Miss Julie Kennedy](#), WA the *Safe to Learn Project* would never have evolved into the sustainable project it is today.

[Safe to Learn Advisory Team](#); those who participated in the [Pilot Project at Lamar Consolidated Independent School District in Texas](#); and the [Safe to Learn Team, especially Elizabeth Hall](#) have also all helped to create this community of practice and each of them has dedicated their lives to keeping children safe.

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