

ASCEND

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Would A Doctorate Help?

November 14, 2021

Our Essential Question



Should I consider pursuing my
doctorate to become a more
competitive candidate?

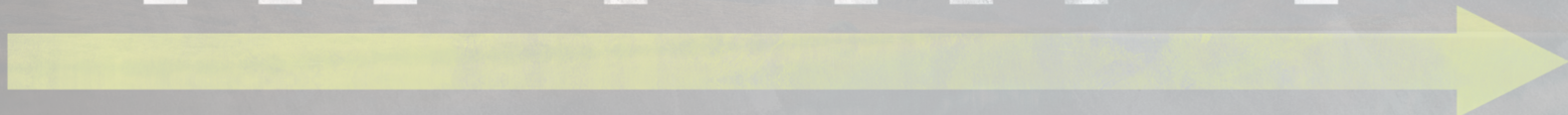
Intrinsic Rewards



Would A Doctorate Help?



- Pursuing a doctorate is a complex decision



- Whether it would help your job search is simpler



Doctorate As Procrastination



For too many leaders, pursuing a
doctorate is a form of

procrastination

Central Office Roles



A doctorate is an advantage in hiring for:

- Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent
- Executive Director
- Director
- Area Supervisor

Principal Roles

- Advantageous, but...
- An extremely inefficient form of advantage
- Often a form of procrastination



Assistant Principal & Dean Roles



- Adds to your general credibility, but...
- May exceed education level of principal
- Signals “short-timer”
- Often a net disadvantage
- Can be a very expensive form of procrastination

Not A Shortcut

- The hiring process is always competitive
- A doctorate is NOT a shortcut to your dream job



Should I Go For It?



The Money Myth



Within a given job, you typically will NOT make more money—or not enough to justify the effort and expense.

New Possibilities



A doctorate *will* open new career possibilities...is that valuable?

Local Networking



Whenever possible, attend a brick-and-mortar program in your region. The networking opportunities are far better.

Online Doctorates



The #1 reason to consider an online doctoral program is...

relocation

Financial Aid for Doctorates

- Loans
- Graduate assistantships
- No grants or scholarships





Don't Mistake Acceptance for Fate



- Doctorates are a major cash cow for universities
- Don't enroll in a program just because they accept you
- You would likely be accepted to many programs
- Choose the *program* that's right for you at the *time* that's right for you

Typical Features by Degree Type



PhD

- Individual
- 4-10 years
- Customized coursework
- Full dissertation study
- Weekday/night classes
- Employment a challenge

EdD

- Cohort
- 2-4 years
- Defined coursework
- Modified dissertation/capstone
- Night/weekend classes
- Employment assumed

Online vs. On-Campus



Online

- Limited networking
- Relocation-friendly
- Unpredictable reputation
- Similar cost

On-Campus

- Regional networking
- Relocation challenging
- Well-established reputation
- Similar cost

What If It Won't Pay Off?



- Years till retirement
- Salary schedule
- Future positions





Non-Financial Motives

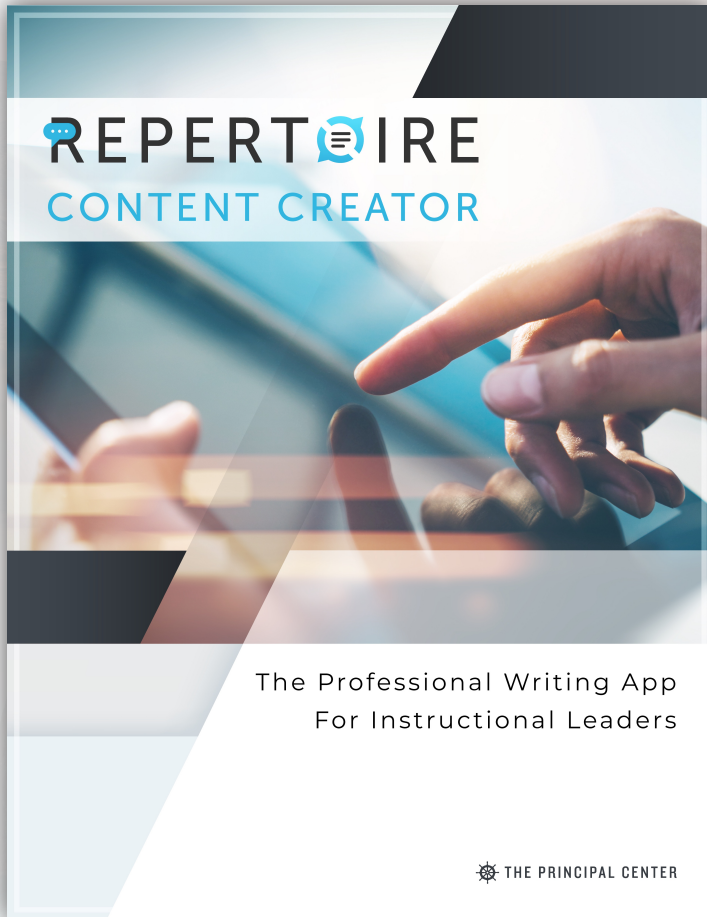
- Professional challenge
- Contribution to the knowledge base
- Honor your mentors
- Fulfillment
- Distinguish self

Save the Date



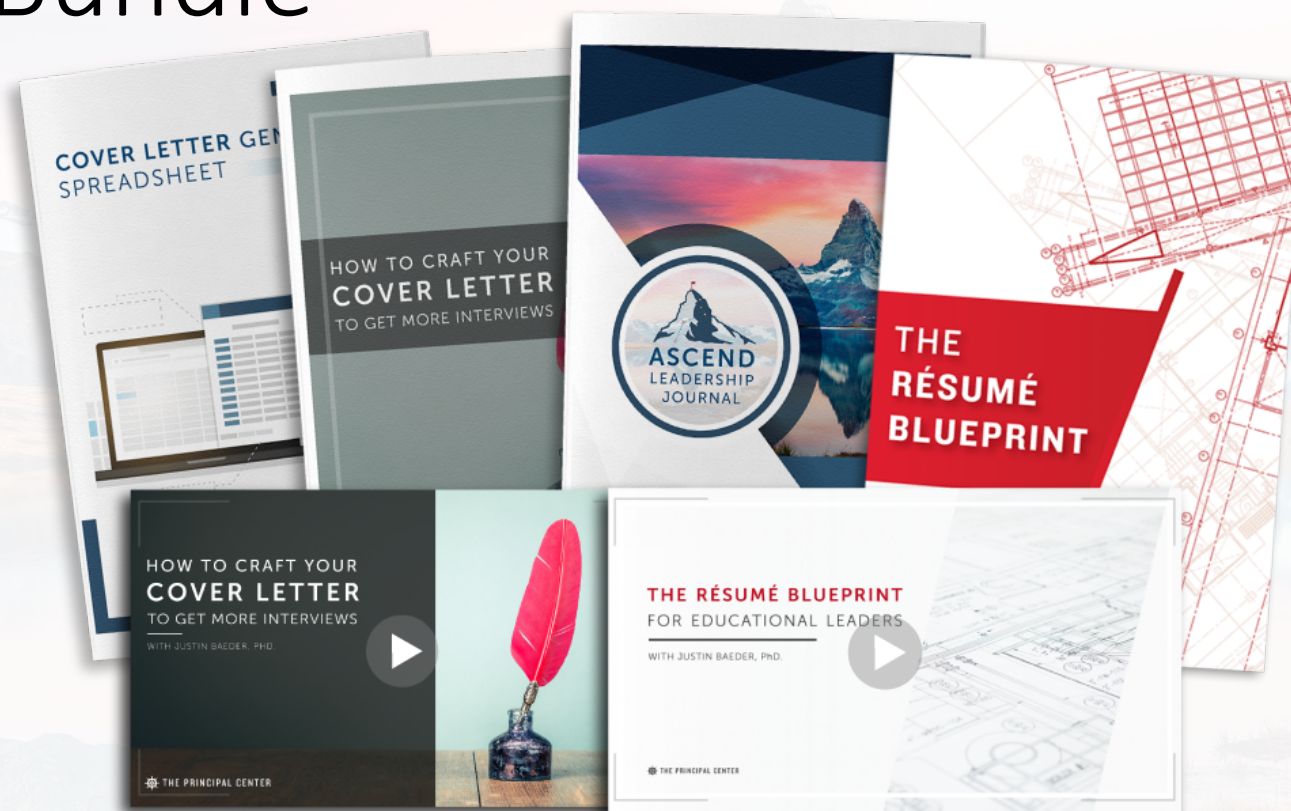
2022 job search kickoff:
Black Friday
November 26, 2021

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