

Te Whakaahu Hautūtanga

Advanced Leadership

A programme for women in education.

“It’s actually relevant! Everything we’ve talked about, I could go back the next day and apply something.”

Needs and challenges

New to the role, Hannah was keen to build on her confidence and strengthen her capability as Deputy Principal. Online professional development seemed “less intimidating” than face-to-face options, and being able to connect with other leading women in education from across the country was a significant drawcard. “It also meant conversations were not limited by local education politics.”

There was further appeal knowing the structure of the programme meant learning could happen at her own pace, and around her existing schedule. Having worked with CORE before, Hannah was confident that committing time to CORE PD would be “valuable and not wasted”.

Key expectations

- Further her professional learning
- Better understand her role
- Create a network of fellow leaders



Hannah Fairbairn

Deputy Principal
Waipukurau School

2020 is Hannah’s first year as Deputy Principal, her Principal Bex Skerman completed the Advanced Leadership programme in 2019 and highly recommended it.

Programme experience

Advanced Leadership met and exceeded Hannah's needs. She "absolutely" built on her professional knowledge and capacity. She noted that while the programme exposed her to new ideas, it also reignited her thinking with much of her existing knowledge. "It provided a space to delve deeper into research and ideas I'd only skimmed the surface on before."

Finding an "incredible instant connection with my peer coaching buddy", Hannah was able to have deep, professional conversations with someone completely removed from her personal environment. Content within the programme was highly relevant to what was going on at her school and Hannah appreciated (Advanced Leadership cohort facilitator) Shona Smith's ability to be "straight to the point". As her leadership role involves a lot of time giving to others, she found it invaluable that the programme delivered a platform from which she could "refill my own bucket".

Learning development highlights

For Hannah a huge strength Advanced Leadership provided was the opportunity to network and build relationships that continued on beyond the programme. Highly relevant content meant that Hannah could, and was encouraged to, apply the content in her school immediately. This continues through to today, as she still refers back to her notes when facing new challenges and further "digests" the content.

Together with her Principal, Hannah is implementing change in her setting. They are taking time to consider new decisions, not rushing to do everything at once. An overall highlight for Hannah was "thinking about the reactions people will have to change, and how to implement changes in a mindful and considerate way".

Advanced Leadership has whet Hannah's appetite for further study, confirmed her passion for leadership and desire to be a principal in the future.



Key takeaways

- Understanding the theory behind creating change
- Confirmed passion for leadership and future career aspirations
- Able to instantly apply new learning

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