Using Evidence for Decision – Making and Action

Excerpts from Chapter 4 – Leading with Intention

"If we have data, let's look at data. If all we have are opinions, let's go with mine.
Jim Barksdale

Author and leadership expert, Douglas Reeves (20016) reminds us that it is human nature to use background knowledge, lean on past experiences, and influence others from our comfort zone.

Dr. Reeves also reminds us… "however clear the evidence, personal experience remains triumphant in too many discussions of education policy." (p. 6) In other words, despite the evidence, we often fall back to past experiences or opinions to guide our decisions.

Questions for Reflection:

1) How might our inability to look at evidence versus fall back on our experiences impact student learning?

2) How can you change this pattern?

3) What would be a good way to balance experience and expertise with current reality data? What would be the benefits for students?