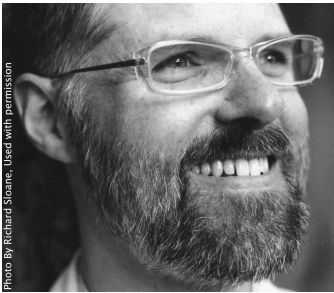


Don Berg, A Biographical Sketch

Author of *Every Parent's Dilemma: Why Do We Ignore Schools That Nurture Children*

Due out in February 2015



Don Berg was born Donald Alan Berg in Long Beach, California on January 21, 1968. He simultaneously attended a college preparation magnet program called PACE (Program for Accelerated Curricular Experience) at Long Beach Polytechnic High School and Lakewood High School, in Lakewood, California. He immediately went on to attend Reed College in Portland, OR, in the fall of 1986 after getting his diploma from Lakewood. After three years he left Reed to pursue his newly discovered passion for working directly with children.

In January of 1991 he graduated from the Northwest Nannies Institute, Portland, OR, and over the next 19 years pursued a variety of opportunities along two separate lines. The less passion driven line of work was in bookkeeping and business administration. He soon refined his passion to teaching school age children to explore their world everywhere except the formal classroom; this proved to be a constant lure. For five of those 19 years he home schooled other people's children. He also worked in day care centers, before and after school programs, in homes, and summer camps. For all of those years he informally studied education, particularly the alternative education worlds of home schooling, democratic schooling, and other holistic school models.

In 2007 he started his website Teach-Kids-Attitude-1st.com as a means of developing and promoting his ideas for K-12 education and his first book *Attitude First: A Leadership Strategy for Educational Success* (Trafford, 2004). Mr. Berg returned to Reed College in 2010 to finish his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He graduated in 2012 and his thesis research was published in the peer-reviewed journal Other

Education under the title- *Enthusiastic Students: A Study of Motivation in Two Alternatives to Mandatory Instruction*. The Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior in 2014 published an article entitled *Effects of predictability and competition on group and individual choice in a free-ranging foraging environment* on which he is a co-author.

In 2012 he founded Schools of Conscience to build the nurturing capacity of K-12 schools based on his assertion that 'nurturing' in the K-12 context is merely supporting the scientifically verified primary human needs of students and teachers. "This sense of the term 'nurturing' effectively summarizes the key features of human psychology that form the foundation upon which education is built, provides clear behavioral guidelines for making practical changes, and leaves plenty of room for communities and schools to figure out how to meet their unique challenges," he says. His passion has become transformed into supporting K-12 teachers through transforming education policy at all levels. His website is being rebranded and rewritten to serve the mission of Schools of Conscience.

In 2014 he was about 90% done with writing a book to present his framework for redesigning school systems to become more nurturing when *Every Parent's Dilemma: Why Do We Ignore Schools That Nurture Children* leapt out, wrote itself down, and insisted on being published first. *Every Parent's Dilemma* is primarily addressed to the alternative education world of home schooling, democratic schools, and other holistic school models that Don has been steeped in for over 2 decades and have pioneered the practice of nurturing in schools.

The less passion-driven route in his career has lead to him to his current service as the treasurer of three small local non-profit organizations based in Portland: Open Road Learning Community for Teens, the Portland Green Party, and Portland Clean Air.