



Dr. Tony J. Rollins

Dr. Tony J. Rollins is the director of KnowledgeGate, LLC, which he founded in 2002 and is dedicated to systems improvement in public schools and educational associations through on-site consulting, presentations, meeting facilitation, training and coaching. His clients include the school administrations and educators who are doing the complex work of system change in order to improve student performance. Tony spent a decade as a math teacher at the junior high, high school and university levels, which helped him to gain an understanding of the day-to-day challenges that educators face. For over twenty years, he was also an executive with various educational associations working closely with teachers, administrators, parents, school boards and political and community leaders.

Prior to starting KnowledgeGate, Tony was the Assistant Executive Director of the National Education Association in Washington, DC. While in this position, he played a major role in creating the Learning First Alliance, a unique partnership among the twelve major national education organizations that represent teachers, school boards, parents and administration executives. Working closely with representatives of each organization, he assisted in the development of the Alliance's strategic objectives to increase student achievement and restore the public's confidence in public education by learning from each other. He also led the organization's Professional Development Initiative and served on its Steering Committee and Board of Directors.

KnowledgeGate's client projects have included introducing the administration and teachers union in **Pine Grove, Pennsylvania** to systems thinking and other disciplines of learning organizations for the purpose of developing a common, effective language for discussing and implementing specific strategies to improve student success. Through this training and action research, the district staff learned how to work together more effectively and developed an increased capacity for shaping the future of the district in ways that advanced student learning. In **Racine, Wisconsin** KnowledgeGate has worked with a coalition of administrators, school board members, union leaders and community members to improve communications and reduce the conflicts caused by years of poor labor/management relationships. Through one-on-one coaching and facilitation of their guiding coalition, the district has made significant progress in developing the capacity of its school board, administration and union to work together on behalf of student achievement. KnowledgeGate is also currently working in **Santa Fe, New Mexico**, and **Columbus, Ohio** school districts.

In his consulting practice, Tony uses his extensive experience in problem solving, team building, management strategies, and strategic planning at the local, state and national levels. A portion of this work is fully supported by the Panasonic Foundation in Secaucus, New Jersey. He is an active member of the Society for Organizational Learning in Cambridge, Massachusetts and has presented at numerous state and national meetings. He also serves on the Governing Council of the Society for Organizational Learning in Cambridge, Massachusetts.