

# Donald Watkins

Transformational Leadership, Entrepreneur, Futurist

Don@donwatkins.net

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## Summary

Transformational leadership. Master of Arts in Educational Psychology from State University of New York at Buffalo (1993). Graduate of St. Bonaventure University May 2011 with MSED in Educational Leadership. Pi Lambda Theta International Honor Society for Education. New York State School Building Leader and New York State School District Leader certifications.

## Specialties

Transformational leadership and mission/vision development. Classroom integration of technology with iPads, Androids, Google Apps, Moodle, Drupal, Wordpress, Edublogs, Broadband and Polycom distance learning. Developing innovative programming for at-risk students. Data coaching and analysis.

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## Experience

### **Owner at DGW Enterprises LLC**

January 1999 - Present (12 years 11 months)

Creative technology solutions for individuals, small and medium businesses and non-profits.

*5 recommendations available upon request*

### **Technology Director at Franklinville Central School**

October 1987 - Present (24 years 2 months)

Microsoft Active Directory administrator, Linux System Administrator. Lotus Notes administrator.

Moodle Administrator, Study Island, Edublogs, Polycom, Broadband distance education.

*11 recommendations available upon request*

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## Skills

**School Administration**

(Advanced, 20+ years experience)

**School Management**

(Advanced, 20+ years experience)

**Data Analysis**

(Intermediate, 20+ years experience)

**Social Media Marketing**

(Intermediate, 10 years experience)

**Technical Writing**

(Intermediate, 19 years experience)

**Creative Writing**

(Intermediate, 5 years experience)

**Mission Development**

(Advanced, 20+ years experience)

**Technology Integration**

(Expert, 20+ years experience)

**Technology Planning**

(Expert, 20+ years experience)

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## Education

### **Saint Bonaventure University**

M.S.E.D, Educational Leadership, 2009 - 2011

Activities and Societies: Pi Lamda Theta

*6 recommendations available upon request*

### **State University of New York at Buffalo**

M.A., Educational Psychology with emphasis on technology and learning, 1988 - 1992

### **Excelsior College**

B.S., Liberal Studies, 1987 - 1988

### **Excelsior College**

A.S., Liberal Studies, 1987 - 1987

### **U.S. Navy Hospital Corps School**

Hospital Corpsman A School, 1972 - 1973

### **St. Bonaventure University**

Master of Science; Honors Graduate, Educational; Educational Leadership

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## Honors and Awards

Pi Lamda Theta International Honor Society, Voice of Democracy Winner, Honorable Discharge United States Navy, Sailor of the Quarter Submarine Medical Center 1974, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Impacting Youth Award, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Board Member, Minister of St. Irenaeus Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

## Interests

Transformational Leadership, Entrepreneur, Mindfulness in education, consulting, web design, open source software, Ubuntu Linux, general aviation, Google Apps for Educaiton.

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## 22 people have recommended Donald

"I have known Don Watkins for about 5 years now. I have only really gotten to know him well the past year and a half. Don is a Technology Coordinator at Franklinville Central School District. Many times Tech Coordinators are just “nuts and bolts” type people and in some ways don’t want to make too much work for themselves. This is not Don. Don is passionate that students graduating from Franklinville will be competing for jobs with students from all over the world and understands that Technology is an area students must have in their “bag of tricks.” Don understands the importance of web 2.0. technologies and how the computer is a portal for multiple resources, which includes people. Don is also very familiar with open-source software, specifically Linux operating systems. He strives very hard to save his school and even other schools’ money by promoting these types of operating systems and software. Admittedly, Don is not a programmer. He is really not familiar with any programming language. He is, however, a great networker, in multiple senses of the word. I get the idea that Don could rebuild a server and virtualize it wearing a blindfold, much like a soldier has to rebuild his weapon in darkness. Don is also great at networking in the global sense. Don and I have “met” many people through the computer portal. He is able to connect with people all over the world that help him, and he in turn helps them. Just this week, Don stated that he connected with a person in Israel who is virtualizing Linux machines, which Don is looking into as a way to save his school district money. This past summer, at a conference we hosted at the Southern Tier West Regional Excellence building, Don and I met Bill Fitzgerald. Bill came into our conference to discuss his open-source educational website company. Since meeting Bill via Skype, Don has reconnected with him and even attempted to meet up at another conference, DrupleCon, in Washington, D. C., which Don spent his own money to attend. Don is one of those guys who keeps “all the plates in the air” and manages to do everything from helping teachers with their passwords and installing new ink cartridges in printers to organizing the Franklinville Tech Committee and partitioning servers for data backup and security issues, and still has time to make personal connections with people. I consider Don an educator, technologist, thinker and friend."

— **Rick Weinberg**, *Staff Specialist, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES*, worked with Donald at DGW Enterprises LLC

"Don is very knowledgeable on various software and hardware alternatives for computer systems. He researches customer needs well and developes good system solutions."

— **Robert Hand**, was Donald's client

"Don is one of the most dedicated individuals I know. Working with Don is a true pleasure. He has a sense of entrepreneurial wisdom that is hard to find. He is always thinking of ways to improve on success, and does a great job at it. I trust Don's expertise and know that he always has his customer's best interest at heart."

— **Dave Stevens**, *Program Manager Technical Services, C/A BOCES*, worked directly with Donald at DGW Enterprises LLC

"I've known Don Watkins for many years and have been consistently impressed by his curiosity and accomplishments, primarily in aspects of computing technology but also in other personal pursuits. Don is one of those creatures who by temperament or by choice inhabits the cutting-edge of whatever he finds himself working on or engaged by. He has done tremendous work implementing novel technology solutions for the Franklinville school district as well as the surrounding community. I have had the pleasure of participating in joint presentations to technical audiences with Don, and can attest to his ability to strongly contribute to any collaborative or group effort, and to lift other participants up to his level of expectation and competence. Frank Pirrone"

— **Frank Pirrone**, *Technology Coordinator/Integrator, TCSD*, was with another company when working with Donald at DGW Enterprises LLC

"Don is very knowledgeable and consistent with his quality work. He gets his work done in a timely manner and every one is happy!"

— **Rob Mercier**, was Donald's client

"Don is very knowledgeable and keeps up with all the industry standards - always willing to learn the latest & implement proper technologies to keep his school district (students and faculty) up to speed. Very resourceful & helpful person!"

— **Sherry Wyckoff-Bauer**, *Telecommunications Analyst, Erie 1 BOCES*, was a consultant or contractor to Donald at Franklinville Central School

"Don and I have worked together on a committee for several years. He is a knowledgeable leader that prides himself on researching technologies that work for the good of schools, all the while keeping in mind financial obligations to the taxpayers."

— **Richard Lydo**, *Associate Director - Technology Services, Erie 1 BOCES*, was with another company when working with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"If you need help with a technological problem, Don's your man. As the head of our technology department, Don makes it a point to keep abreast of all the new hardware, software, "toys," and "gizmos" on the market. He always has something new to share at our monthly technology committee meetings. Don is quick to help with problems and I find it amazing that he finds the time to keep track of the over 400 computers in our elementary and secondary schools. All in all, Don is

an asset to our school district."

— **Deb Rogers**, *Teacher, Franklinville Central School*, worked with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"I have worked with Don Watkins for almost fourteen years and am constantly impressed with his dedication and intellect. He leaves no detail or research untouched when asked to help on any data/technology project. He has been a tremendous mentor for me and invaluable asset to our school district when technology expertise is needed."

— **Diane Soulvie**, *C.I.O. and Executive Assistant, Franklinville Central School District*, worked directly with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"It was always my pleasure to work with Don. He is a visionary person in every way. Unlike most visionaries, he is also able to manage the details that move people toward that vision. Don's work at Franklinville as Technology Director moved Franklinville Central School out of the dark ages of filmstrips into the world of cell phone technology, learning through gaming, and video streaming and open source software."

— **Brian Edmister**, *Principal, Genesee Valley Central School*, worked directly with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"Don is wonderful to work with. He is always conscientious, knowledgeable and easy to communicate with. I've been working with Don since 2003 and he has always been a joy to work with."

— **Maureen Snyder**, *Financial Consultant, New England Financial*, worked directly with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"Don is a thoughtful, creative person who provides honest insight to fellow workers. You can rely absolutely on his counsel and he is an asset to any business or friendship."

— **Jack Osborne**, *Teacher, Jamestown Public Schools*, was with another company when working with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"Don possesses pertinent know-how in regard to incorporating meaningful technology in an educational setting."

— **Jamie Wojtowicz**, *English Teacher, Franklinville Central Schools*, worked with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"I have known Don for over 30 years and he is very knowledgeable and helpful with all of his advise. He is a tech-wizard and has the answers!"

— **Rob Mercier**, was Donald's client

"Don has a great ability to forecast technology trends and to see valuable educational uses for technology. I assisted Don with a Technology audit and business plan for the Franklinville School District and found his ability to conceptualize new applications for existing technologies to be phenomenal. He is an asset to the educational community."

— **Donald Case**, *Cisco Networking Academy Instructor (Evening Adjunct), Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES*, worked directly with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"Don is a well grounded individual with a keen sense of applied technology. His ability to see the larger picture has been key to his success as a leader in his profession as a Technology Director."

— **Dave Stevens**, *Program Manager Technical Services, C/A BOCES*, worked directly with Donald at Franklinville Central School

"It has been my pleasure to work with Don the last 6 years through Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES. Don is a very knowledgeable and hard working technology coordinator, teacher, administrator and integral part of the Franklinville Central School District. We work together on taking quality media and other resources to teachers and students at Franklinville."

— **Margaret Jensen**, *Digital, Resources, Technology Staff Specialist, Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES*, advised Donald at Saint Bonaventure University

"Don is an amazing teacher and student. He uses technology to inform his students and enhance his teaching. I always learned when Don spoke. He is a credit to his profession."

— **Mary Ann Hebert**, *School Library System Director, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES*, studied with Donald at Saint Bonaventure University

"I have worked professionally with Don Watkins over the past 15 years. We have frequently interacted on issues regarding the best approaches for using technology in education. He and I have studied many issues regarding technology and I am confident he will succeed in his formal studies at the university level."

— **Mansel Wells**, *Coordinator, Erie 1 BOCES*, studied with Donald at Saint Bonaventure University

"I have known Don Watkins for about 10 years but have really gotten to know him in the last 4. I now consider him a very good friend. When you first meet Don you think he is tall, gangly and monotoned with an extremely dry sense of humor. If you let your first impressions take a hold of your long-term ideas about Don Watkins, then you've made a huge mistake. Don is a change agent. Don is trustworthy. Don is a visionary. Don is a thinker. Don is technologically adept and educationally well-rounded. Don has compassion for his students. Don continues to learn and be example of a lifelong learner. He continues to teach himself in formal and informal ways. Don is constantly reading books and sending e-mails and other forms of communication to inspire others around him. He discusses what he reads and asks others for their input. He inspires others to learn

and to also be change agents like himself. Just in the last two years, Don has been given the opportunity to teach technology to seventh and eighth graders. Don was about to retire when he was asked by a building leader to take on this responsibility. Don has flourished in this role as a teacher. I know this for a few reasons. With a quick examination of the project his students created, one can easily tell Don's passion and concern for the students he teaches. One can also see the enthusiasm for learning that Don has somehow instilled in his students. One of the lessons Don does at the beginning of the school year is he shows a picture of himself when he was in eighth grade. He asks students to guess who the picture is and wonder if the person in the picture like himself when he was in eighth grade. Often students cannot figure out who is in the picture and many of the students say that that person like himself in eighth grade. With further questioning, Don realizes that many students he teaches do not like themselves in eighth grade. Don's whole point of doing this at the beginning of the year is to let his students know that he is really no different than they are. Don Watkins also knows the truth about technology. He knows when a technology administrator is being overly protective of the network due to a possibility viruses and what really can be done to promote learning with technology. Don would be an asset for any school district. He would save the school district money and taxpayer's dollars. He would be great for a district that needed a technology director and a principal. Don Watkins is the only friend I know that has gone from school bus driver in the district to gaining the skills to run a school's network to furthering his skills to being a valuable member of his current school's leadership team."

— **Rick Weinberg**, *Staff Specialist, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES*, studied with Donald at University of Experience

"Donald Watkins is an extraordinary person; his thirst for knowledge and continual self-improvement is an awesome thing to watch. I look forward to his e-mails that are rich with terrific websites, technology tips, and educational tidbits that he shares so willingly. His work ethics are beyond reproach and should inspire all of us. It is with great pleasure that I wholeheartedly recommend Don for any endeavor that he sets his sites on and say to him kudos for a "job well done!"

— **Diane Soulvie**, *C.I.O. and Executive Assistant, Franklinville Central School District*, studied with Donald at Saint Bonaventure University

"I have known Don Watkins for the last 8 years. Mr. Watkins is an incredibly dedicated individual who tirelessly seeks out the latest technology innovations, open source or other, and applies them to the students and teachers he serves as Technology Coordinator. Mr. Watkins not only has the pulse on the latest technology, but the gifted insight into the context of how the technology can be applied in the classroom with teaching strategies making him a Maverick in this area. I do not know of another individual more dedicated in providing the best educational materials for both students and faculty. He is an asset to the educational community and a role model for colleagues."

— **Gary Ciszewski**, *Automation Support Librarian, Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC)*, advised Donald at Saint Bonaventure University

[Contact Donald on LinkedIn](#)