

Systems Snapshot Q&A



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Q: How were you first introduced to systems thinking?

A: I held a leadership position for a school district that was working with the Waters Center to implement systems thinking with staff and students. I immediately saw the benefits of systems thinking for me both personally and professionally. I became a published author using what I learned as a systems thinker. I've been hooked ever since.

Q: Which Habit of a Systems Thinker do you wish everyone practiced?

A: *Changes Perspectives to Increase Understanding.* This Habit reminds me that we should always strive to grow, evolve and discover, and that we should waste no time pointing fingers or casting blame.

Q: Which leader (past or present) do you admire most and why?

A: John C. Maxwell. I've been a fan for years, and I recently found out that when he left his role as a pastor to enter the business world, it was met with much scrutiny. To make a transition into the secular arena took courage. I admire his resilience, and as a woman of faith, his ability to bring what he believes into all he does.

Q: What is one book you think everyone should read?

A: *The Energy Bus*, by Jon Gordon. It's all about the theory of positive energy and how to use it as fuel to achieve success in all areas of our lives. In my current work setting (a correctional facility), it's very important that I am intentional about staying positive and cognizant of the energy that I reflect upon others.

Q: What advice do you have for someone getting started as a systems thinker?

A: Dive right in. Learn the Habits of a Systems Thinker first to establish a foundation and go from there. Pick a Habit that resonates with you and practice it in your everyday life. And remember: we're not seeking mastery, we're seeking discovery.

Q: Why do you think the world needs systems thinkers?

A: Our world needs thinkers who can step back and take the time to ask the right questions. We live in a time where we expect immediate answers, but our world is calling out for thoughtful reflectors and problem-solvers.

Ronda Davis is a best-selling author of the children's book series,
The Adventures of Bella Noelle
(Current book: *Bella's Big Wish*; Upcoming Release: *Bella Goes to College*)
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