

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

Everyone wants to work in a thriving, innovative organizational culture where the leaders are inspired, employees are engaged, and customers feel cared for. We'll be joined next month by a man who has done good work with corporate executives to foster such "virtuous organizations." I'm speaking of Michael Lee Stallard, president of E Pluribus Partners in Greenwich, CT. Mr. Stallard, a periodic visitor to the DC metro area, says that, "Unless the people who are part of a business feel a sense of connection - an emotional bond that promotes trust, cooperation, and esprit de corps - they will never reach their potential as individuals, nor will the organization." Surely this applies to government as well.

To get a feel for his approach, download "The Connection Culture: A New Source of Competitive Advantage," at <http://www.changethis.com/44.06.ConnectionCulture> and visit <http://www.michaelleestallard.com> . Last month, Mr. Stallard taught leaders at GE. Next month, we'll welcome him to civilian federal government.

This invitation is non-transferable so that a proper welcome can be prepared for each participant. If a colleague would like to be invited, please ask him or her to contact me.

We'll convene in Vie de France's meeting room, right rear off the center atrium in the USDA Graduate School building. There will be one dinner tab per table - please bring small bills, and contribute \$5 toward room rent as you pick up your nametag. Some books will be available for purchase. The room will open at 5:30 p.m. and order-taking will begin at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Kitty Wooley
U.S. Department of Education