



Grant Wiggins

May 26, 2015

Visionary education reformer and self-professed "educational trouble-maker of longstanding" Grant Wiggins died at home on May 26, in Hartford, CT. Grant was a writer, a thinker, a researcher, a teacher, and a learner. Best known as the co-author of *Understanding by Design*, he challenged educators to think logically, designing instruction backward from clarity on learning goals. He believed that learning was not signaled by the accumulation of knowledge but, rather, by the power to take action. With a BA from St. John's College and an Ed.D. from Harvard, Grant went on to work on some of the most significant reform initiatives in the world, including the Coalition of Essential Schools, the AP and IB programs, and many state and national reform efforts. Grant's greatest joy was his family. He leaves his beloved wife and best friend, Denise Wilbur, with whom he shared every piece of his heart and mind. He also leaves dear children Alexis (Diego), Justin, Ian, and Priscilla Wiggins; parents Dorothy and Guy Wiggins; brothers Guy and Noel Wiggins; grandsons Elios and Amadeo Estrada; and best friend Jay McTighe. Grant also loved educators who wanted to make a difference and were willing to challenge themselves as part of that effort. And he loved rock and roll, soccer, good food and wine, Paris, the Red Sox, walks, and conversation. A public celebration of Grant's life and work will be planned for late July. Details will be published in his blog, "Granted...and."