



## About the *Connection Practice*

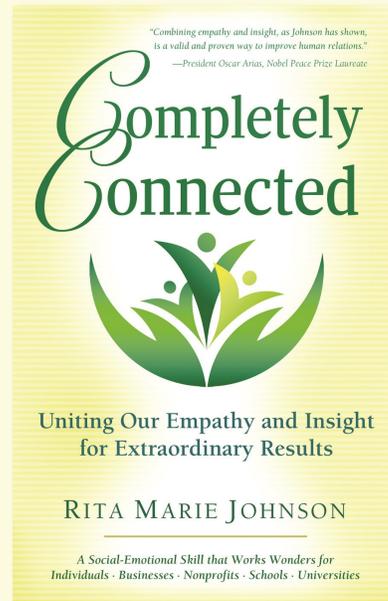
Engagement in life and work has become a critical issue.

Many people feel overwhelmed or detached at some point—life comes at them with increasing speed and they are expected to be available 24/7 via technology.

And yet they need and crave another type of connection. They want to work in an environment that is collaborative and innovative. They want to live in communities where social connection is supported. And, they want personal relationships that are authentic and meaningful.

Rasur Foundation International is a nonprofit that is dedicated to teaching a social and emotional skill for a more connected world.

Founder Rita Marie Johnson has created programs that teach this skill to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations so that they can achieve a new level of engagement and meaning for themselves and their organizations.



**Available March 29, 2015**

## ***Completely Connected: Uniting Our Empathy & Insight for Extraordinary Results***

In this book, Rita Marie Johnson shares the Connection Practice, a method for connecting with ourselves and others that is supported by scientific research and testimony from people around the world. The practice has boosted the social and emotional intelligence of more than 40,000 students in Costa Rica. This book will inspire you with its how-to for personal and global change as you:

- Tap into your best intelligence for creative problem solving
- Build your social and emotional intelligence
- Increase rapport and deepen connections, leading to a sense of belonging
- Prevent or resolve conflicts in a way that brings people closer

***Now Available for Preorder on Amazon.com***

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## Current Keynote & Workshop Presentations

### The Empathy Advantage in Change Management and Human Performance

Empathy is recognized more and more as essential for business sustainability. It is a critical skill for uncovering, acknowledging and addressing resistance to change. Its presence in performance reviews and other interactions between managers and employees inspires respect, creates clear communication and results in more engaged employees. But how can empathy be taught efficiently and effectively in a business setting? In this program, you will:

- Learn how naming of feelings and needs creates empathy
- Look at the science behind the naming of feelings and needs
- Practice speaking empathically

### The Connection Advantage in Business

Use of the Connection Practice in business ignites individuals to perform at higher levels of engagement and results in a more innovative and productive culture. The time and money saved by implementing these scientifically-based soft skills will provide a better than expected return on investment. In this program, you will learn how this skill:

- Enhances creative problem-solving by maximizing brain function
- Resolves conflicts within and between teams
- Builds deeper self-confidence resulting in greater performance

Educator, author, speaker, and award-winning innovator **Rita Marie Johnson** has been sharing her message and her method worldwide for over a decade. The “Connection Practice” she pioneered, now being used by many schools and businesses, brought her the 2005 *Ashoka Changemakers Innovation Award*. Johnson was instrumental in establishing the Costa Rican government’s Ministry of Justice and Peace, which was embraced by Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Currently CEO of Rasur Foundation International (RFI) and teaching at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica, Johnson is the author of the forthcoming book *Completely Connected: Uniting Our Empathy and Insight for Extraordinary Results*.

## Testimonials

*“In business, relationship conflicts are the primary driver of inefficiency — not to mention stress! This book shows how to stop the drain, tap collective creativity, and improve buy-in for greater results.”*

**Anita Champion**, President & CEO, Connexus, a global consulting firm

*“One of the hallmarks of a successful business is its ability to harness creativity to constantly push into new territory. Without growth and innovation, businesses stagnate and eventually fade away. Those with staying power, however, have mastered an intangible, often overlooked factor that allows them to focus on the future with clarity: empathy. While that may surprise many, I am certain that the ability to connect with and relate to others—empathy in its purest form—is the force that moves businesses forward.”*

**Joey Pomeranke** on Entrepreneur.com, 11/6/2014

### Rita Marie’s Previous Speaking Engagements Include:

- Rotary International Conference Keynote
- Executive Women’s Summit
- INCAE Business School for the Annual Reunion of Rectors and Deans of Latin America
- Central American Leadership Initiative (CALI), a think tank sponsored by the Aspen Institute

