



Teaching & Learning Initiative

Update Number 5

11.29.12

⇒ “The way organizations are now is a product of how we think and interact. They cannot change in any fundamental way unless we can change our basic patterns of thinking and interacting so that learning can be a way of life.” (Peter Senge)

⇒ “We do not learn from experience; we learn from reflecting on our experience,” notes Lee Schulman, lifelong educator and a grandfather of the case study method. “The process of remembering, retelling, reliving, and reflecting is the process of learning from experience.” (Lee Schulman)

⇒ In the most recent session of the Teaching and Learning Initiative, participants delved into their experience with Area of Performance 4, Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning. As in previous deep reflection, the process included personal journaling, offering each other a structured Reflecting Conversation, and drafting personal learning goals for the future.

⇒ Participants also introduced themselves to Area of Performance 1: Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning. Educators look into one another’s proficiency in this Area through a protocol-structured collegial conversation in which an educator speaks about a unit of study in response to specific prompts designed to focus reflection. This is a new sort of reflecting conversation for most educators. It differs from a pre-observation conference in that its scope is an entire unit of study or coherent sequence of lessons.

⇒ **Extended Learning** for the next session includes:

1. reading and editing the edition of the Area 1 protocol designed to focus on a professional learning, school improvement, or coaching initiative (for partnerships including a coach, administrator, or intervention specialist).
 2. (all partners) each partner offering the other a collegial conversation focusing on Area 1 as it is reflected in a unit or other planned sequence of lessons, using the protocol;
 3. (all partners) practicing the Norms of Collaboration: pausing, paraphrasing, and posing skillful questions.
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⇒ The next session, on December 18th and 19th, will focus on:

- Reflecting on experience with Area of Performance 1, and
- Learning the Framework’s fifth Area of Performance, Assessing Student Learning

