



What? No Lesson Study work time?

When you see the agenda for the May LCF you may notice that we have not set aside any time to work in your current lesson study teams.

This was a very thoughtful decision on our part and we wanted to communicate with you our reasons for making this choice.

We want to take full advantage of our guest presenters. We are very fortunate to have the author of the *Science Curriculum Topic Study* text and her colleagues coming to present at this forum. We wanted to take full advantage of their expertise and be sure we scheduled sufficient time for the powerful learning that will be gained from your interactions with them. We felt that setting aside a time for groups to work on their own projects might detract from all they have to offer.

This is a time to learn additional PD techniques that can help as your leadership role continues to develop. The first year of the grant you were focused on your own personal professional development; in the second year you explored strategies for developing collaborative groups by working with other teacher leaders in a lesson study. Though Lesson Study is a high quality professional development technique, it is not the *only* one. The CTS sessions offered at the May LCF will focus on other professional development strategies for working with your non-teacher leader colleagues to improve science teaching and learning.

Lesson study was not one of the top choices made by TLs registering for the LCF.

We asked participants to select their top choices for breakout sessions in order to set the agenda. Lesson Study was selected by very few participants.

PRINCIPLES OF THE NCOSP PARTNERSHIP

PRINCIPLE #2: RESEARCH Actions will be planned and modified based on best research

Important surveys coming your way!

As you saw during the February Learning Community Forum, the Partnership uses information gathered from Teacher Leaders to help guide the direction of the grant. Learning Community Forum and Summer Academy evaluations are a few ways that data is collected. Another important form of data collection is surveys.

Two important Teacher Leader surveys have been generated to collect valuable data. Please take the time to complete them as the information you provide will help us develop an understanding of the different perspectives of the Teacher Leaders and guide future activities of the grant.

Below is a summary of the two surveys that you have or will be receiving shortly:

Teacher Leader Partnership Profile

This survey had three areas of focus. The first looks at Lesson Study. In an effort to assess the context for applying lesson study and the impact it has, questions are posed for Teacher Leaders who have and have not been involved with lesson study.

This survey also seeks to understand the Teacher Leaders use of various resources/support in their science reform activities and the importance they place on these resources/support.

Lastly, the survey focuses on the extent to which Teacher Leaders and administrators have been able to work collaborately in support of NCOSP goals.

Thanks to those of you who have completed the survey. If you have not completed it, please submit it by next Friday, May 5th. Your feedback is important in helping us develop partnership activities that continue to meet your needs.

Partnership Survey

This is the annual end of the year survey conducted by the external evaluation team. Data collected from this survey will show the effects the partnership is having on establishing and sustaining meaningful collaborations.

This survey will be sent out mid-May.

We know that spring is a very busy time during the school year and we really appreciate you taking the time to complete the surveys. The information you share is a valuable part of making the partnership a success!



WEBSITE OF INTEREST

www.aaas.org

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) website has a wealth of information for any science educator. Science for All Americans and Benchmarks for Science Literacy are available online by going to the Project 2061 link. Check out *Science Books and Film: A Critical Review Journal For All Sciences For All Ages*. You can see "best book" lists for any age group sorted by science discipline and recommended books for teachers to improve their knowledge and practice. Get to the site from the AAAS homepage by clicking Programs > Education > School Teachers and Librarians.

Check out other Education links from the AAAS site and share what you find!

WORD FROM THE FIELD

Stepping up to Leadership

Sherry Schaaf and Jody Carroll, teacher leaders from Forks know that teachers on the West End have a hard time getting to continuing education offerings, so they brought continuing education to the West End. With the support of Tom Hathorn from ESD 114, and their NCOSP TOSA, Lois Sherwood, they put on two in-services in March. The first focused on Inquiry, and the second trained teachers to use powerful classroom assessments. Fourteen teachers from Forks, Clallam Bay, and Neah Bay attended the in-services!

Mixed Emotions:

Jody Carroll will be moving to Chicago at the end of the school year. We are excited for her as she moves onto the next phase in her life which may include learning to drive a Zamboni. She will be sorely missed by the students in Forks, and by all of the teacher leaders, and TOSAs who have learned to appreciate her insight into science education, and her great sense of humor.

A word from Jody

There are so many things that I will miss about Washington, the beaches, the ocean, the mountains, my colleagues and friends, my students...and one of the things that crosses my mind is that I will miss the gifts I have received from NCOSP. Not only was I able to network with so many teachers who I feel I can call friends, but the greatest gift of all was simply time. Time to spend collaborating with other teachers. Time to reflect on my own practice and apply new things I have learned. Time to collect and evaluate evidence of student learning. Time to sit and just listen to higher education faculty over lunch and gain knowledge from their experiences. My great plan is to give myself permission to continue to use time to benefit my practice. It seems like we are all in a hurry to get to this meeting or that in-service, and I want to take time to spread the fingers of influence this grant has over science education reform towards the Midwest! While I look forward to the changes in my life and the happiness that awaits me in Chicago, I will truly miss everyone and what they have had to offer me since we have met. Some things that stand out...Pinky's singing (and the way he put up with my star-struck babbling), Carolyn's laughing, Mark's hugs, EVERYONE's talents!, Scott's silent way of saying "no, I won't tell you the answer," Colleen's constant answering of annoying questions, the Power-point presentations, Lois' kindness, the joy I felt when we got together at forums and the TOSAs who were always trying to keep us on task...all the friends I have made who are teachers, just like me...OK, there are too many things to share! You have all made such an amazing impact on me that it is so hard to say goodbye. All that I have learned I plan to share with my new colleagues in Illinois, so in a way, you are all "immortal!" Keep up the wonderful work you do to stay on the leading edges and provide the best science education you can to your students, and I will keep an eye on you from afar. Best wishes, and please keep in touch. And thank you all, for the life-changing gifts you have given me.
Jody Carroll, seattle41@yahoo.com



Summer Academy Registration Update



The "Big Event" is just a few months away. Registration, which will be in your inbox the beginning of next week, will include the following components:

1. Updating your information in the NCOSP data base.
2. Selecting meal, lodging, and parking plans.
3. Clock hour or graduate credit registration.
4. Pre-registering for optional academy programs and merchandise.

Please note, there will be some "homework" to do before the academy: The description and forms for the "homework" will be included in the registration.

Administrator day will be August 8th: Ask your administrator to reserve that day to join us.

This year we are offering some exciting optional events:

- **Opening Day Barbecue:** Monday, July 31st, 5:30-6:30 PM
- **Field trip:** focusing on the earth science content, Saturday, August 5th or Sunday, August 6th
- **Teacher Leader-Administrator Reception:** Tuesday, August 8th, 5:00-6:00 PM
- **Third annual SMATE-A-THON and Picnic Dinner:** Thursday, August 3, 5:30-7:30 PM
- **Second Annual No-Talent Talent Show:** Pizza will be provided for all that attend, 5:15-7:30 PM

It's going to be exciting with time to reacquaint and work in our professional learning community around the content of Earth Science. See you there!!