

Summer 2007 Professional Development

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 23 – 27

This summer's professional development will look different from past years. It will be more individualized to specific curricula and content needs and will give us the opportunity to practice supported leadership with groups of teachers while expanding the scope of science education reform in our schools. The program will include a week of collaborative planning and learning with Teacher Leaders and Higher Education Faculty and ultimately result in delivering a 3 day, locally-based experience in August for a team of colleagues from our schools. Each school-based team will determine their focus, including issues such as content, pedagogy, or integration with other curricular areas. So, set aside July 23-27 to be a part of this new endeavor.

To get ready for these changes Teacher Leaders will need to do some preplanning with their building administrator to prepare for the summer experience and for follow-up next year. Between now and May, you will need to think about what learning goals to address and what additional teachers from your building are ready and willing to join the NCOSP community. Applications are due May 7th and are now available on the NCOSP website at: http://www.ncosp.wvu.edu/Resources/Summer2007PD/school_application.doc. The Teacher Leader-Administrator Symposia at the end of this month will include time for you and your building administrator to begin working on your application. Registration for this event will be posted soon, so plan to attend!

For more information about this summer, please click on the following address to download a copy of the informational brochure about Summer 2007 Professional Development, which was passed out at the February Learning Community Forum in Mount Vernon. <http://www.ncosp.wvu.edu/Resources/Summer2007PD/Summer2007PDFlyer.pdf>. Please feel free to talk with your TOSA

REMINDER:

Teacher Leader Second Quarter Activity Reports are due to your central District Office on March 31st. These reports include a description of how you have been using your NCOSP release days. If you have questions, please contact Justin Galloway at Justin.Galloway@wvu.edu or (360) 650-6480.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the next cadre of TOSAs for the 2007—2008 school year:

<u>Olympic Peninsula</u>	<u>Skagit County</u>	<u>Whatcom County</u>
Sherry Schaaf	Kathy Darrow-Joiner	Mike D'Hondt
Kacey Uptegraft	Shannon Warren	Brian MacNevin

Formative Assessment Works!

A Message from Pinky Nelson

This note is about helping students learn, not giving them grades.

So many times we chant the words and nod at the right times, but we do not take the time to do the necessary hard work to change the way we teach by incorporating learning research into our daily practice. Effectively using formative assessment is one of those critical skills that works and that we need to master. It is a complex instructional technique, one of the key characteristics of a student-centered classroom. “We use the general term *assessment* to refer to all those activities undertaken by teachers -- and by their students in assessing themselves -- that provide information to be used as feedback to modify teaching and learning activities. Such assessment becomes *formative assessment* when the evidence is actually used to adapt the teaching to meet student needs.” (Black and Wiliam, *Kappan*, Oct, 1998) Of all the things that we can do in the classroom, formative assessment done well is the one that shows the biggest increase in student achievement. It requires deep enough content knowledge to be able to hear our students’ ideas in the context of the big science concepts, the skill to provide supportive and informative feedback, and the instructional flexibility to modify teaching to “meet student needs”. Notebook prompts and entries, white-boarding, small and large group discussions, pre-tests, and scaffolded questioning are all strategies we can use. It takes knowledge, practice, and time to make effective formative assessments a natural part of our teaching. The effort will be worth it for our students. Read more in the article, *Inside the Black Box: Raising Standards Through Classroom Assessments* by Black and Wiliam on the NCOSP website. Go to Educator Resources, then Assessments and Standards. *Of course knowing what students know and don’t know will also help us give them grades.*



Second Annual Teacher Leader-Administrator Symposium

The second Administrator/Teacher Leader Symposium is just around the corner and has just undergone some changes. In response to recent feedback that administrators have difficulty committing an entire day to this work and are interested in planning for summer professional development, we have refocused the symposium. In the morning, from 9-11, we will work on planning for summer professional development and next year's NCOSP supported work. The afternoon will include time for finishing the summer PD application or unfinished District Action Plan work, such as:

Reviewing progress on our District Action Plans, including analyzing any evaluation data collected

Identifying the work remaining to be done this year to complete as much of our District Action Plan as possible

We will have sample applications for teams to examine as they complete their own, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions. NCOSP TOSAs and staff will be available to assist you in your work.

The Whatcom/Skagit symposium will take place on Tuesday, March 27 in Bellingham at WWU. Peninsula TOSAs will schedule meetings individually with their district teams to reduce time spent on travel.

The symposium will provide an important opportunity for teachers and administrators to collaboratively support their science education program. We hope to see you Tuesday.

CALENDAR



March 23—Learning Community Forum, Skagit and Whatcom Districts, Mount Vernon.

March 27—Teacher Leader-Administrator Symposium. SMATE

May 21-22—Learning Community Forum, All Partner Districts, WWU, Topic TBD

June 25- 30—LASER Strategic Planning Institute, Bellingham

July 23-27—Summer Planning Week, WWU



WEBSITES OF INTEREST



The NW LASER Alliance website is another place to access the templates for the documents used in Peggy Willcuts' science notebook training. Go to "Documents" page to view and print the forms: <http://www.esd189.org/sciedrfm/Documents.html>

Scroll down to the "Documents from Trainings" heading, and the Science Notebooks training is the first class listed. Here you will find a Table of Contents, Box & T-Chart, Scoring Guide and more.

K-6 users of FOSS and STC kits may want to get to know the **Washington LASER Alliance** site at <http://www.wastatelaser.org/> Several useful links may be found there. By clicking on "Instructional Materials Support", then "Toolkits", you will find support for 7 Elementary FOSS kits (Balance & Motion, Levers & Pulleys, Magnetism & Electricity, Mixtures & Solutions, Solids & Liquids, Physics of Sound, and Structures of Life) and 5 Elementary STC kits (Life Cycle of Butterflies, Magnets & Motors, Organisms, Plant Growth & Development, and Soils). Within the toolkit, you can click on: Websites of Interest, Literature Links, WASL Related Vocabulary, FAQs, Student Preconceptions, or Storyline. For each Investigation within the kit, there is information about related GLEs, Concepts, Lesson Set-up and Management, Teacher Tips, and Literacy Support.

Also under "Instructional Materials Support", then "Washington State GLE Alignments" you can choose either FOSS or STC, and click on "At-a-Glance Charts". There are 3 charts showing alignment of all K-6 kits to each of the 3 EALRs. The FOSS page has an additional, very useful link to **SMERC, ESD 112's Science and Math Education Resource Center**. The SMERC link has downloadable WASL-like assessments and an EALR alignment for many elementary FOSS kits, as well as Assessment Overviews for K-2 and 3-6. You can go directly to the SMERC website at http://www.esd112.org/smerc/smc_k-8.html

Goodbye and Good Luck

Kathi Normand (aka O'Shea), computer guru extraordinaire, has left NCOSP. If you ever forgot your password, needed help negotiating the NCOSP website, or had other technology-related questions, you know that Kathi was always there to help. She is working for Comcast in Bothell, which just happens to shorten her commute from Woodinville by hours. We will miss her very much.